Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-033 *21 February 1989*

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Cuba

Further on Visit by Malian President

Greeted by Castro

PA2002024989 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, this afternoon received Malian President Brigadier General Moussa Traore.

The secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] arrived in our country on an official working visit at the invitation of the first secretary of the CCP Central Committee, Fidel Castro Ruz.

The outstanding African statesman arrived in our country from Argentina, in whose capital he had arrived on Thursday, 16 February.

Moussa Traore is currently president of the OAU, a post he [words indistinct]. The OAU has carried out intensive diplomatic efforts to find a political solution to the Libyan [words indistinct], Western Sahara, and Southern Africa.

The Republic of Mali is located at the center of Western Africa and is an active member of the OAU, the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference, and the Group of 77.

The government headed by Gen Moussa Traore supports the strict implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence.

Traore Receives Award

FL2002170289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, has conferred the Jose Marti Order upon the president of the Republic of Mali, Army General Moussa Traore. [Video shows Castro pinning medal on Traore's chest. The camera shows PCC Politburo members Juan Almeida Bosque, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Vilma Espin, and Roberto Veiga also attending the ceremony]

Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the PCC Central Committee, stressed the ties of friendship and mutual respect that unite the two peoples.

[Begin recording] [Hart] Your presence in our country, Esteemed President, stresses an additional relevant importance because you represent a continent that is so beloved and intimately linked to the hearts of all the Cuban people.

We are pleased that relations between Mali and Cuba have developed in a fraternal fashion during the course of these 3 decades. We highly appreciate the important contribution that you personally have made to the successful advancement of friendship between our peoples. We remember with satisfaction that when your country first attained independence, it established diplomatic relations with Cuba while our revolution was in the midst of full harassment and an economic blockade. Since that time the Government of Mali, its peoples' organizations, intellectuals, and people have not ceased in expressing their solidarity and friendship with our fatherland.

Because of all this, the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba has decided to confer upon you the Jose Marti Order, the highest Cuban decoration, which bears the name of the person who led the struggle against Spanish colonialism and who inspired, with his ideals, the youths of that century's generation and won definite liberty and independence for our fatherland. [applause]

[Traore, in French with simultaneous Spanish translation] I feel both honored and proud to be decorated with the nation's Jose Marti Order, the highest distinction awarded by the Republic of Cuba. This decoration that has been conferred upon me by the Council of State honors more than just myself; it honors my country, the Republic of Mali, as well as the entire African Continent. [applause] [end recording]

Official Talks Begin

FL2002193489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 89

[By Alexis Sotolongo]

[Text] Official talks between the Governments of Cuba and Mali began this morning at the Council of State attended by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Army General Moussa Traore, president of Mali.

Moments before the beginning of the talks, Traore, who is also acting president of the OAU, the Organization of African Unity, placed a floral wreath at the base of the monument to our national hero, Jose Marti, at the historic Revolution Square. He was accompanied by Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo.

The illustrious visitor is planning to tour EXPOCUBA this afternoon; in the evening, he will tour the historic area of the city and visit the Africa House.

Castro Receives Malian Award

FL2102022989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Moussa Traore, head of state of the Republic of Mali, today presented to President Fidel Castro the Great Cross of the Order of Mali, the highest award given by that country. [Video shows Malian president reading statement to Castro]

[Begin recording] [Traore, in French with simultaneous Spanish translation] Commander Fidel Castro Ruz, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mali, [words indistinct] (?we confer) on you the Great Cross of the National Order of Mali. [Video shows Traore placing sash with cross on Castro. Traore and Castro embrace]

[Castro] Dear President Moussa Traore, dear comrades of the Malian delegation: I would like to express my most profound recognition of the high honor that has been conferred on me during this simple ceremony, which is being held prior to the commencement of our official talks.

In the past few months, three African countries have greatly honored me by granting decorations that I really was not expecting; they are from Mozambique, Angola, and Mali. They hold for me a special significance in that they (?coincide) with a moment of progress for the just causes of Africa, and at a time when Namibia is about to attain its independence.

The visit is just beginning; the negotiations will also begin. The visit is brief. However, I hope the hours are well spent and that this is an event in the history of the close and indestructible ties between two brotherly countries such as Mali and Cuba. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

'Friendship Tree' Planted

FL2102032389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Army General Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, have planted a tree in the National Botanical Garden as a symbol of the friendship between the people of Mali and Cuba. The tree is a Senegalese sapindus, a plant which grows along the banks of the Senegal River, which crosses the Republic of Mali. The director of the National Botanical Garden gave the commander in chief and President Traore seals and posters as a souvenir of this ceremony. The two statesmen spoke about the characteristics of the African plant and about the need to protect it from the drought that affects our country. Afterward, they signed the guest book of the National Botanical Garden. Prior to planting the tree, President Traore toured areas of EXPOCUBA.

Soviet Scientist Cited on Gorbachev Visit

FL1602132989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The upcoming visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will be historic. This is was recently said by Viktor Vol'skiy, director of the Latin America Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Vol'skiy believes that the historic character of the visit will be reflected in bilateral relations as much as in the ties of the USSR with all of Latin America. Referring to USSR-Latin America ties, Vol'skiy said that even though some people in the West like to stress the differences between the two, he is convinced, as a scientist, that no mechanical copy of a process could ever be a success.

The Soviet scientist literally said: It is worth saying that Lenin said in 1921 that the invincibility of socialism is guaranteed by the various paths of construction of that system in different countries.

Lastly, Vol'skiy said that the meeting between Fidel Castro and Mikhail Gorbachev will be successful in enriching the building of socialism.

Soviet Atomic Power Official Continues Visit

Meets With Vice President

FL1602141589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, received Vadim Mikhailovich Malyshev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission, the officials talked about matters of interest for cooperation in the field of atomic energy safety supervision.

As part of the activities of Malyshev and his delegation, the Soviet group visited various centers of scientific and technical interest and the child care center "Little Friends of the Atom."

Tours Nuclear Power Plant

FL1702142489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Vadim Mikhaylovich Malyshev, chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry, and Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission of Cuba, have toured various projects under construction at the Juragua nuclear power plant. They were accompanied by representatives from the Basic Industry and Construction Ministries and the nuclear sphere's institution system.

Malyshev and the delegation accompanying him participated in an exchange of views. Each group responsible for the construction of the projects noted, among other things, the efforts being made to maintain quality during the entire investment process and the improvement of coordination of on-site safety inspection teams in line with Decree-Law 98 in effect in our country.

Nuclear Safety Agreement Signed

FL1802184089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Vadim Mikhaylovich Malyshev, chairman of the USSR's State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry, and Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission of Cuba, have signed an intergovernmental agreement which regulates Soviet technical assistance to our country in the field of the state's safety supervision at the Cienfuegos nuclear power plant and other nuclear projects under construction. The document establishes, among other things, the supply of advisers and laboratory equipment and training of Cuban personnel for state supervision organs.

Meets With Castro

FL2002173489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and Cuban Government, met on Friday night with Vadim Mikhaylovich Malyshev, president of the USSR's State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry.

Malyshev conveyed his impressions of the work our country is undertaking in the area of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. He stressed the integral concept of Cuba's [words indistinct] and the seriousness which the [word indistinct] and the PCC's stand on matters related to the safety of nuclear installations.

During the course of their negotiations, the leaders positively assessed the quality of the work at the Juragua electronuclear center.

The commander in chief also expressed an interest in the current situation and in new measures being taken in the USSR to guarantee the safety of nuclear projects.

Also present at the meeting were Mikhail P. Alekseyev, chief of Soviet advisers in the nuclear safety area; Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission; and Alejandro Bilboa Alonso, principal state inspector for nuclear and radiological safety.

Foreign Ministry Backs Afghanistan Solution

FL1602155689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1523 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Forces hostile to peace and stability in Afghanistan continue to systematically violate the Geneva accords, resulting in the aggravation and furthering of conflicts in that country, said a message sent by the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations [MINREX].

The document, issued in Havana, states that despite the compliance of the USSR and Afghanistan with the agreements for the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingent, it has not been possible to reach a political solution.

Cuba again requests an end to foreign interference in the internal matters of Afghanistan and asks that the cease-fire be observed, states the message from our Foreign Ministry.

The MINREX calls for a political solution via negotiations by all parties, which will guarantee international respect for Afghanistan's sovereignty.

Commentary Analyzes Central American Summit

PA1702155389 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Feb 89

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The virtual dismantling of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution settled in Honduras and the organization of a mechanism to effectively verify regional security were the most important agreements reached during the fourth Central American presidential summit held at a Salvadoran Pacific coast beach resort. However, the 2 days of intense debates among the Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Honduran, Costa Rican, and Guatemalan heads of state were insufficient to analyze and make decisions about other aspects important for attaining peace in the area. Despite this, the presidents expressed their satisfaction with the summit results, during which they made a joint commitment to find within 90 days a formula to repatriate or relocate in third countries the thousands of counterrevolutionaries currently stationed in Honduran territory.

Something that caught the attention of the media and regional analysts was the position of Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo, who had protected the irregular forces for years and who is now affirming that the agreements will solve a problem that had been affecting his country for years. Nevertheless, the fact that the five presidents are the ones committed to drafting a joint plan to dismantle counterrevolutionary bases in Honduras and arranging the departure of counterrevolutionaries in Honduras shows that there is a determination to end a very sensitive aspect of the conflict. On the other hand, this agreement totally changes the political framework of these mercenary forces.

Regarding this topic, the Honduran, Costa Rican, and Guatemalan presidents said the U.S. Government should support the five Central American presidents' decision to eliminate the mercenaries as a hostile military force fighting the Nicaraguan Government. Regarding the fourth Central American presidential summit, it is also necessary to say that despite the contradictions that existed on the verification of the Esquipulas II agreements, the presidents decided to renew the power granted to the national verification commissions to continue performing their duty.

As we said at the beginning of this commentary, the 2 days of presidential debates were not enough to analyze some very important issues such as human rights violations and some internal conflicts, such as in Guatemala and El Salvador. Nevertheless, the ratification of the international verification commission that will supervise regional security matters under the United Nations is very important for the peace efforts.

We cannot conclude this commentary without adding that Nicaragua once again made its utmost effort for peace when President Daniel Ortega promised to reform the electoral law and hold elections before 25 February 1990. To conclude, we must say that the agreement seeking to dismantle the Nicaraguan counterrevolution is even more important because it is a harsh blow to the policy the Reagan administration had maintained for 8 years and because it opens positive prospects for the area.

'No Recommendations' in Human Rights Report

FL1702001789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2303 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The report that will be presented to the UN Human Rights Commission by a mission from that organization which visited Cuba in September 1988 will make no recommendations, says a source from the delegation that visited the island. The source said that the final draft of the document has been finished and that the only thing pending is a meeting of the group to put the final touches on the report before it is officially published and presented to the international forum.

CEMA Domestic Trade Ministers Hold Talks

Delegation Heads Awarded

FL1602135389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 Gmt 16 Feb 89

[Text] The (Fernando Chenar Pina) distinction was given last night in a solemn ceremony to the heads of the delegations that are participating in the first meeting of the leaders of the Domestic Trade Ministries of the CEMA member countries.

Representatives from 12 countries—Nicaragua, Angola, and Laos among them—attending the meeting received the high honor, which is given by the National Union of Commerce and Gastronomy Workers and the Ministry of Domestic Trade.

The (Fernando Chenar Pina) award and its resolution expresses to those personalities the honor and admiration for the workers of those sectors in their countries and the firm willingness to always work together for the development of socialist commerce and the struggle for peace.

Before the award ceremony, the delegations attending the meeting of the heads of the domestic trade ministries enjoyed a performance of "Esta Noche Si" by the FAR Artistic Group.

Meeting Ends; Accords Signed

FL1802193089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] The first meeting of leaders of domestic trade ministries from socialist countries ended with the signing of the final protocol at the Palace of Conventions today. During an interview granted to our newscast, Manuel Vila Sosa, Cuban minister of domestic trade, talked about the results of the meeting:

[Begin Vila recording] Regarding the specific results for our country, we have to say that the highest level of merchandise trade ever in the history of our ministry was agreed on. It amounts to 34 million rubles for 1989—we practically just signed the document. This enables us to replenish our market with new merchandise. Of course, this is practical merchandise, not luxury items, but it is useful for our population.

We have also signed scientific-technical cooperation exchange documents. An important thing was agreed on during this meeting: All scientific-technical development projects will not be collected; that is, they are going to be given at no cost to countries such as Mongolia, Vietnam, and Cuba, which receive preferential treatment from CEMA member countries. I believe this is a very important agreement reached during the meeting, in addition to agreements on the training of cadres and specialists in various socialist countries, especially the GDR, the Soviet Union, the CSSR, and Hungary. [end recording]

Angola Willing To Host Verification Meeting

FL1702004389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0005 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Angola has announced its willingness to host the first meeting of the joint military commission on 23-25 February. The commission will verify the fulfillment of the tripartite agreement signed in New York last December.

Afonso van Dunem made the announcement on behalf of Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos when he spoke at an international socialists conference which recently began in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The commission is made up of the signatories of the agreements: Angola, Cuba, and South Africa. Representatives from the United States and the Soviet Union will serve as observers in the commission.

Severo Aguirre Meets Guinean Foreign Minister

FL1802190089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Severo Aguirre, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], received Guinea Foreign Minister Mr Jean Traore today. During the meeting, held at the ANPP Protocol Room, Aguirre showed interest in the Guinean foreign minister's work agenda in Cuba. Aguirre, who is also a member of the PCC Central Committee, explained to the distinguished guest the way the Cuban parliament and our country's electoral system work. The head of Guinean diplomacy arrived in Cuba last Sunday and has visited various places of economic, educational, cultural, and social interest.

Burundian Minister Praises Troop Withdrawal

FL1702035589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2343 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The anticipated withdrawal of 3,000 Cuban internationalists from Angola is additional proof of the good faith and respect for keeping one's word demonstrated by the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro.

This was stated by the Burundian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Cyprien Mbonimpa. However, he said, the international community, and above all the African Continent, expects similar conduct from the South Africans.

Lawyers Union on Progress of Legal Procedure

FL1702153689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] The 30th anniversary of the founding of revolutionary tribunals has been marked at the National Union of Cuban Lawyers. Justice Minister Juan Escalona was in attendance. Emergency tribunals and criminal court rooms were eliminated in Cuba in January 1959 and Law 33 of the revolution was passed.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] It can be said here that revolutionary tribunals and their workers fulfilled the assigned mission in the same way they are now ready at all times to fulfill the missions the commander in chief, the FAR minister, or the party assign us. [applause]

[Second unidentified speaker] There is a lot to be done. Our plans are ambitious. We are working on amendments to the tribunals law, we are planning to amend the procedural law—the two procedural laws. Our goal is to present Comrade Vilma the draft of a family code that will update the current one as a gift on the occasion of international women's day. There is a lot to be done.

I believe that when [words indistinct] we have to return to our roots. We have to forget about imported institutions. We have to bring our roots up to date, find our own way. We have to fulfill the agreements reached recently by the PCC Politburo regarding the need to speed up penal procedures, all legal procedures, and to speed up much more labor justice in our country. [applause] [end recording]

National Police Activities, Arrests Reported

Automobile Parts Thief

FL1602130489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police, PNR, entitled "The Fight Against Crime," during "Progreso" newscast]

[Text] Agents of the 2d Municipal Unit of the PNR in Centro Habana have detained citizen Lazaro Alberto Lopez Ramon, resident of no 64 Concordia Street, Centro Habana Municipality, for being the mastermind behind several thefts of automobile parts and accessories in that locality.

His arrest was effected shortly after he stole various objects from four vehicles that were parked in different streets of Havana; these objects are now proof in the hands of the police. The items were found after PNR agents searched Lopez' home.

The PNR adds that this subject, with bad social and moral conduct, has been sanctioned twice before. Lopez was the mastermind of a strong-arm robbery and stealing goods for use [sustraccion de bienes para usarlos]. This will be taken into account by the tribunal that will judge and sanction him as a recurrent subject in delinquent activities.

Burglary Suspect Caught

FL1702164589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Members of Havana's 2d Municipal Unit of the PNR [National Revolutionary Police] have carried out a through investigation surrounding a breaking and entering burglary at the unit located at 212 Salud Street, Apartment 11, Centro Habana Municipality. Two tape recorders, cassettes, and clothing were stolen.

Thanks to the efficient work of the PNR, which counted on the cooperation of mass organizations and residents of the area, the person responsible for the crime was identified and captured in less than 24 hours. Citizen Ricardo Rivas Jimenez, resident of 1545 I Street, Apartment 8, Reparto Alta Habana, Boyeros turned out to be this person. The accused man was arrested in a house located in 217 Reina Street, Centro Habana. Most of the stolen goods were found hidden outside and were later returned to the owner.

The PNR added that the man involved in the crime is in temporary custody for now until he is presented to the tribunal that will judge and sanction him for this law violation.

Railroad Workers Arrested

FL1802135189 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Members of the railroad police and the provincial unit of police investigations in Camaguey, with the help of a group of railroad track and works laborers in the territory, have arrested five citizens accused of perpetrating a breaking and entering theft. The perpetrators of the theft of merchandise valued at 15,000 pesos are: Osvaldo de Varona Riber, conductor; Feliciano Ramos, machinist; Ernesto Rodriguez, assistant; Alfonso Sanger Matos, conductor; and Andres Diaz Marcano, assistant. They were part of the crew of cargo train no 5811 that covers the route between the industrial city of Nuevitas and the Camaguey capital.

These individuals were able to commit the crime because they became aware that various rolls of textile from the CSSR were being transported in one of the train's wagons. They agreed to retrieve the merchandise that was under their care and responsibility and use it for personal gain.

During the police investigation, it was confirmed that the accused men had committed other similar thefts motivated by profit. This was possible because of the lack of effective controls on the part of the appropriate state organizations.

The PNR [National Revolutionary Police] reports that the detained men are presently under preventive custody and will soon be brought before the justice organ that will try and sanction them according to what is legislated in the current Penal Code.

Taxicab Driver Violations

FL1802172989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] The 12 taxicab lines with set routes in Havana were inspected this week. Less violations were detected than were last year. A group of inspectors from various enterprises participated in the task. They traveled in taxi cabs and detected three infractors.

The passengers received ticket stubs that had already been used and, at other times, the stubs were not handed out to the passengers and the drivers pocketed the money. As a result of these violations, the process to terminate their jobs will be initiated in line with the Paragraph H of Article 158 of the Labor Code.

Canadian Citizens Expelled, Sent to Costa Rica

FL1802191489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Cuban authorities have arrested Canadian citizens Leonard Charles Snick and Jean Lee Snick, who arrived in Cuba from Jamaica as tourists last 8 December. The Cuban Government learned through official reports and evidence supplied by the Costa Rican Government that the Snick couple was being prosecuted because of numerous racketeering cases. In accordance with international and Cuban laws, the Snicks were expelled from the country through a resolution passed by immigration authorities. They left in a Costa Rican Lacsa airliner bound for Costa Rica early Saturday.

Sailors Aid Honduran-Registered Ship

FL1602215689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2133 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] A Honduran-registered ship, the "Jody," was rescued by Cuban sailors on the outskirts of Cayo Frances. The administration of the shipping agent of the "Jody" said the ship ran aground when it experienced a mechanical breakdown on the night of 14 February.

The ship, which was covering a route between Miami and Haiti, has a crew that includes one Honduran, one Dominican, and three Haitians; they are in no danger after having received assistance from the Cubans, who offered them drinking water, food, and medical services.

Sugar Afterproduct Production in Harvest Noted

FL1702031689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Commentary by Diosdado Maso during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] Good evening Daniel. Good evening Cuba.

Daniel, once again I will be discussing afterproduct [recobrado] production in the present harvest. Those who are not familiar with sugar terminology may ask: What is the afterproduct?

The afterproduct is the sugar that is extracted from the sugarcane juice after it is processed in the industry. This definition clearly explains why the afterproduct indicator is one of the most important in assessing the harvest.

The accumulation of the afterproduct in this harvest has been maintained at 89 percent. This is very good because the national average is 85 percent. Nevertheless, it is useful to analyze this figure in detail.

During the last 10 days, the provinces that had the best afterproduct rate were Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Pinar del Rio, and Sancti Spiritus, all of which were above 86 percent. Bringing up the rear in this indicator is Ciego de Avila, Holguin, Las Tunas, and Matanzas. These provinces have not reached the national average during the last 10 days. They have only attained 82 percent.

The case of Matanzas is of some concern. This territory had the largest afterproduct excellence in our past sugar harvests. This decline does not pertain only to a 10-day period. It has been several years now that the agroindustrial workers of Matanzas have not had a good afterproduct rate. Matanzas' elite years for this indicator were from 1976 to 1983. From that date to the present, the workers of Matanzas have not been able to exceed 82 percent. What is the reason for this?

Specialists have discussed this topic at length. Some say that Matanzas has experienced a decrease in sugarcane quality. Others say that the sugarcane plantations have been treated carelessly and that cultural [as heard] attention is not being given to the plantations in a timely or adequate fashion. A third group of specialists say that standards have been lowered in the industry and in the fields.

Whatever the reason, it is worth it to the sugar workers of Matanzas to fight for the first place that they used to have in afterproduct production, which is needed so much by the country's economy.

We invite you to analyze this problem with the workers of Matanzas and us.

The harvest: our primary industry!

Antigua and Barbuda

Prime Minister Announces 9 March Elections

FL1702115589 Bridgetown CANA in English 0505 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Feb 17, CANA—Antiguans will go to the polls in general elections March 9, Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr. announced here Friday. Nomination day will be February 27.

Bird made the announcement before hundreds of cheering supporters of his ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) who braved intermittent showers to attend a mass rally in St Johns, the capital. The ALP, which won 16 of the 17 seats in the 1984 poll, will be seeking its fourth consecutive term in office.

At the Thursday night public meeting, which stretched into Friday, Prime Minister Bird presented the ALP's slate of 16 candidates for next month's poll.

The election will be a three-way fight between the long-standing ALP, the relatively new United National Democratic Party (UNDP), headed by surgeon Dr Ivor Heath and the left-leaning Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) of journalist Tim Hector.

Parliament is to be dissolved February 20.

Dominican Republic

Violence Reported in Villa Vazquez Strike

FL1702222089 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2140 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Villa Vazquez—The strike which began this week in this municipality took (?a violent turn) when demonstrators wearing hoods threw homemade bombs and burned tires on the main highways in the area. Clashes between police and members of the strike movement occurred in the northern, southern, and central part of Villa Vazquez.

The strikers are demanding that the government solve the problem of the scarcity of water.

The demonstrators confronted the police with rocks while the police responded with tear gas. No one was injured in the clashes, reported correspondent Hector Nova Castro.

The strike in Villa Vazquez on the West Highway was called for 24 hours. However, the strike promoters are threatening to extend it if police authorities do not release detainees. More than five youths were arrested during the clashes; one of them was beaten by the police.

Businessmen and housewives of the area are keeping their doors closed in support of the strike.

The Union for the Defense of Human Rights in Villa Vazquez has expressed its support for the strike, (?set up) by a group of student, peoples', and trade union organizations on the northwest line.

Public School Teachers Extend Strike 3 Days

FL1702132489 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Thousands of public school teachers in the Dominican Republic will continue a strike for higher wages for 3 more days. The teachers walked off the job on Monday [13 February] demanding a 30-percent salary hike which would bring their pay in line with the recently authorized monthly minimum wage, but the government says it just can't afford it. The Dominican

Republic education secretary has said if teachers resign he will replace them. Teachers earn no salary while on strike in the Dominican Republic.

Grenada

Government's Anti-Union Moves Discussed

FL1502164189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1543 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 15, CANA—Executive-secretary of the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) of Grenada, Chester Humphrey, has complained that the government here is trying to weaken trade unions.

In an interview aired on the BBC's Caribbean report, monitored here, Humphrey claimed that the Grenada Government is moving to erode rights guaranteed to trade unions by the 1979-83 People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

He referred in particular to the Trade Union Recognition Act mandating employers to recognize unions which emerge with a majority from polls conducted among their employees. "The present government is making moves to take that right away", he remarked.

Humphrey, a former executive member of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) which formed the PRG said he was hoping that people in Britain would pressure the Grenada Government to refrain from interfering with trade union gains.

He spoke of looking forward to unions in Britain sending protest notes to relevant Grenada Government ministers, and British politicans asking certain questions about human rights, the labour movement, and workers rights. "We think that the Grenada Government is amenable to pressure simply because they are deeply concerned about this image of democracy", he said.

Humphrey indicated that this could be seen from the government's own reaction when the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs gave the island low marks for its human rights record in 1988.

The Herbert Blaize administration had dismissed the council's report as one based on "unchecked reports to the council by political enemies".

Left-Wing Leader on 'Revolutionary Change'

FL1802003389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1958 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 17, CANA—Leader of Grenada's leftwing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), Dr Terry Marryshow, has called for the creation of a national unity government here, but has not ruled out the possibility of revolutionary change for the island. Marryshow, a medical doctor, said that such a government was needed to take Grenada out of the present "political mess" created by the Herbert Blaize administration.

In an interview of the local Discovery Television station, he said the government had failed to resolve the problems plaguing the country and there was thus a need for a national unity government for "the salvation of the nation". "We have to do this in a very selfless way. We have to do this in the interest of the nation...", he said.

Marryshow said he wanted to see all Grenadian patriots get involved in the process of national reconciliation given the bitter experiences of the past. In the 15 years since independence from Britain, Grenada has witnessed two changes of government by force of arms, the execution of a prime minister, and a US-led invasion.

The MBPM itself is an off-shoot of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) which toppled the Eric Gairy government in a 1979 coup.

On the matter of revolutionary change, Marryshow said that the MBPM was prepared to participate in the democratic process as it presently existed but would heed any call by the people to bring about revolutionary change. Marryshow did not rule out the possibility of the taking up of arms by the MBPM to seize power once again in the island, stating: "We are not about to abandon any form of struggle." But he made it clear that his party would do nothing to the detriment of the people and it would be the people who would decide if they wanted revolution or not.

"When the conditions are right, the Grenadian people themselves would know and if you get up one morning and you hear there is a revolution...it would be because the Grenadian people want this" he said.

Marryshow also condemned corrupt politicans who he said were only concerned with gaining power to fill their pockets. "We would like to see an end to this. We would like to see high morality in government, honesty and sincerity with the people," he said.

Marryshow also said the MBPM intended to field a full slate of 15 candidates for elections due not later than March next year. He said that some of the candidates had already been identified but their names would not yet be revealed. The MBPM fielded eleven candidates in the 1984 poll but failed to win a seat.

Haiti

Avril Replaces Defense, Justice Ministers

FL2002115289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Haiti's leader has reshuffled his cabinet for the first time since taking power in a coup last year.

General Prosper Avril named an army colonel, (Asedius Saint-Louis), as minister of defense and (Augusta Romansem) as new justice minister.

Observers say the most unpopular of General Avril's ministers, however, remain on the cabinet. Among them is the information minister, Anthony Saint-Pierre. Now, last week, a memorandum leaked from his office which stated that popular uprisings in Haiti may have to be put down by bloodshed.

Political Leaders Released From Jail 16 Feb

FL1702141089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpts] After being held in jail at the national penitentiary for 10 days, Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois), who were arrested on 6 February 1989 in connection with the explosion of a bomb on the Champ de Mars on the 1st day of Carnival, are at this very minute being released. Marcus Plaisimond, who is at the national penitentiary where the two defense lawyers have just arrived with the release order from the office of the representative of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Port-au-Prince, will inform us.

[Marcus—live] Thank you, studio. Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois), accompanied by their lawyers, have just come out of the national penitentiary. [passage omitted]

Journalists are fighting to get a statement from Dr (Jolibois), who is now heading in the direction of the Rue du Champ de Mars, carrying his things. It is really difficult for the time being to interview the two men. Rockefeller Guerre has just gotten into his private vehicle, which was in front of the national penitentiary, and he is leaving this very minute. [passage omitted]

Statements Reported

FL1702201089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois) were finally released yesterday, Thursday. After they were kept in jail for 10 days, the Justice Department in Port-au-Prince resigned itself to acknowledging that no charges could be brought against them. Examining Magistrate Ulrick Charles ruled that there were no grounds for holding them further, and the two leaders left the national penitentiary at around noon yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Guerre] Well, the first statement I can make is that I consider my arrest as... [voice in background is heard saying: "Get moving! Get moving! Get moving!"]

[Unidentified reporter] Go ahead and talk.

[Guerre] ...(?most) arbitrary, on the part of General Avril. It reminds us of the same Duvalierist tactic where they would accuse people for no reason at all so they could lock you up in prison. Thus, we see that it is really the Duvalier regime that is continuing here, that is still in place. [passage including questions from several different reporters omitted] It was Avril's plan to lock me up so that his forum could go smoothly, because he knows I have always been against the forum. It was a plan on Avril's part. [passage omitted] [end recording]

For his part, (Sylvain Jolibois) thinks that his arrest is connected with the military government's forum; he again calls for the Avril government to resign. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that Police Chief Colonel Georges Valcin had told us the day before yesterday that the denunciations that had been made against the two political leaders were unfounded and that there was insufficient proof. And we must also point out a strange thing: The people who, according to Col Valcin, had denounced the two leaders never showed up to bring charges against them. [passage omitted]

Police Disperse Port-au-Prince Demonstration

FL1702133889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpts] There was a panic in the vicinity of the cathedral this morning at around 1030 after the police dispersed the rally scheduled by ORNADEJ [National Organization for the Defense of the Young] to demand the release of Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois). The demonstration was to have begun in the Bel-Air section [section of Port-au-Prince just north of the cathedral]. Parents rushed to pick up their children from the schools in the area. Even the schools in upper Port-au-Prince were affected by the panic. For the time being, a relative calm has returned to the area. However, there has been an large deployment of police troops. Mobile Unit 19 will give us an account of what happened. Mobile 19?

[Mobile Unit 19] Thank you, Ketly. Good afternoon, Metropole listeners. As you said, there was a big panic this morning in Bel-Air. Proof of this is that the vendors of second-hand clothing who gather next to (Tertulien Guilbaud) School quickly put away their wares, and people passing through the area can see that these wares are still packed up in big bags. The Army is also in the area and colleagues from the press have been stopped. Colleagues have been stopped and their cameras and films confiscated. A colleague from Radio Arc-en-Ciel was severely beaten with a billy club. A colleague from Radio Cacique had his cassette confiscated by the military. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Thank you, Mobile 19. The panic began at approximately 1030 and lasted until shortly before noon. For the time being, as Mobile 19 said, things are again calm, and many police troops have been deployed.

Colonel Georges Valcin, head of the Port-au-Prince police, whom we contacted by telephone, has confirmed the dispersal of the ORNADEJ demonstration. He told us it was dispersed because the demonstrators had not asked the police for authorization to demonstrate. Col Valcin also said that this large police deployment is intended to guarantee security in the area. Here is Col Valcin:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter, in Creole] Col Valcin, there is a large police and military presence in the streets. There are also rumors of a panic in the streets. Many parents with children at school have panicked and would like you to tell us exactly what kind of military deployment is in the streets provoking this panic.

[Valcin, in Creole] Well, as you said, there were rumors circulating this morning to the effect that there would be no classes. These rumors spread from parent to parent. This gave rise to a panic. All this happened after the demonstration was dispersed. Thus, indeed, there were rumors and a panic, which we of the police have controlled. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] So, Col Valcin, as head of the Port-au-Prince police, are you telling us that there is nothing going on and everyone can go about his business normally?

[Valcin] Absolutely nothing. Everyone may go about his business normally. And the police are out there to ensure this. We are even looking for the people who are circulating these rumors. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rumors of Violence Cause School Disturbances

'Panic' in Cabaret, Arcahaie

FL1702142889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Report by Arcahaie correspondent Marc Leslie Ambroise]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] It was not just in Port-au-Prince that there was a big panic at the schools [on 15 February]. In the Arcahaie and Cabaret area, there was also lots of rushing to the schools. Between 1030 and noon, all the schools shut down. All the parents were running around in the streets picking up their children at school.

The children at certain schools that are not well fenced-in rushed out and jumped over the fences; many of them suffered minor wounds.

The public marketplace, which was also functioning normally, was also disturbed by the panic being sown. However, no one was able to determine who exactly was causing the panic. [passage omitted]

Fort Liberte Schools Closed

FL1702143989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Report by Fort Liberte correspondent Jocelyn Dorsaint—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] There has been no school in Fort Liberte since Monday [13 February]. Only a few primary school students have been showing up at school. However, sometimes these students have had to be sent home because there are not enough students to hold the class.

A few schools tried to stay open yesterday with the few students they had. These schools were also primary schools. The secondary schools are not functioning at all. [passage omitted] No students are attending school.

The commanding officer of the military district of Fort Liberte had issued a communique informing all students and parents that the military would provide security for the children and that parents should send their children to school. [passage omitted]

Artibonite Situation Noted

FL1702143289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Before the ads: As we pointed out, individuals today, Thursday, provoked runs on the schools in Villard and in (Mouropeigne), in the lower Artibonite Valley. The schools in these two towns, which had begun work this morning, had to send their students home because of the pressure exerted on them by frantic parents. Leonard Exantus tells us about it:

[Exantus, in Creole] Yesterday [as heard] at approximately 1100 panic spread across the entire town of Saint-Marc. There was a rumor from Montrouis and Deluge to the effect that policemen were coming to Saint-Marc to shoot at the schoolchildren and the rest of the population. When this rumor hit Saint-Marc, all the mothers rushed to pick up their children at school. The school directors refused to hand over the children. When we arrived in Deluge, we found that there was no problem whatsoever—that the rumor had been false. [passage omitted]

Provincial Schools Disrupted

FL1702202289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpts] There has been panic, confusion, and turbulence in various schools in several different Haitian provinces. The wave of panic that flowed over all of Port-au-Prince during the first half of Wednesday 15 February spread yesterday, on Thursday, to several different provincial towns.

In Saint-Marc in the Artibonite Valley, schools hastened to shut their doors yesterday morning after rumors of all kinds began circulating.

[Correspondent Fernand Bion] Yesterday, Wednesday, there was a big panic in the schools in Montrouis and Pierre Payen. We have learned that a passing group coming from the Artibonite said that people were shooting at schoolchildren; that is why the students in these two towns ran out of the classrooms.

Today, 16 February, the same kind of panic spread over the town of Saint-Marc. At around 1100, a rumor began circulating to the effect that there were people going around ripping school uniforms off students in the Saint-Marc area and in Pont Sonde. This rumor made parents frantic, and they hastened to gather in front of the schools to get their children. For this reason all the schools had to let their students out early. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] In Petit Goave, where on the day before yesterday [15 February] the population awoke to find flaming barricades in the streets and many antigovernment slogans written on the walls in town, school activity was paralyzed yesterday. A few schools that had started classes had to quickly shut their doors because they were hit by a hail of rocks, correspondent Max A. Metellus said.

[Metellus] (?On) 16 February there was once again no school in the Petit Goave school district. Certain schools that were trying to hold classes with the few students who had shown up were hit by a hail of rocks. However, they were unable to see who was throwing the rocks.

Also, there was a big bonfire in front of Lycee Faustin Soulouque, whose building houses three public schools.

We saw many slogans hostile to the Avril-Heubreux government on the walls of the schools. Certain school directors whom we interviewed informed us that they have shut down their schools until the tension in Petit Goave abates. However, there are no demonstrations.

In Grand Goave, two schools were trying to hold classes with the few students who had shown up. These students came to school but did not wear their uniforms. However, rocks thrown at the school caused all the students to run away.

Because of the way the situation looks today in Petit Goave and its environs, many parents are beginning to go up into the hills, taking their children with them.

We inform you that on Tuesday 14 February a delegation of more than 50 students from Lycee Faustin Soulouque met with the lycee's administrators to see how classes could be resumed in Petit Goave. The meeting ended amid much arguing, with the student delegation dividing and one half hurling accusations at the other half.

This is Max A. Metellus, Radio Soleil, Petit Goave.

[Announcer] The population of the Miragoane area, in Nippes, encountered the same kind of situation. The schools sent the students home very early, after a bunch of rumors of fire began circulating very early yesterday morning, Thursday, in Miragoane.

There was the same panic situation yesterday, Thursday, in the Department of the South. School activity was paralyzed throughout the department—in Les Cayes, La Borde, and Camp Perrin. Our correspondent will give us details:

[Correspondent] Schoolchildren throughout the Department of the South had a rough time of it yesterday, Thursday 7 February 1988 [date and year as heard]. At around 1000, a rumor began circulating to the effect that there was going to be a steamroller [rouleau] and that the schools were going to be overrun. Parents all over the Department of the South then began checking to see where there children were.

In one school in Camp Perrin the students ran off, leaving behind their books, losing a shoe in the process, and so forth. The director of this school will tell us what happened and what he makes of this panic:

[Begin unidentified school director recording] That means that these children.... [changes thought] We can feel that, what do they see? They feel that they live in a country where there is no security. I mean, if they were sure that schoolchildren would not be shot at, if they were sure that no one could come crush [kraze] (?the school with impunity), they would not run off like that. [end recording]

Another school director told us that he did not see how the schools were going to continue to function in such a situation.

We point out that at around 0700 we noticed a few armed soldiers in olive-green uniforms patrolling around the Esso service station. [passage omitted]

Education Ministry Statement

FL1702212589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Thus, on 16 February, after the wave of panic that hit Port-au-Prince on 15 February, all activity was normal. There was a slowdown only in the schools. Also, the Ministry of Education has issued a news release in connection with this matter of parents rushing around picking children up at school when there are panics in Port-au-Prince and provincial towns. The Ministry of National Education, Youth, and Sports asks parents, schoolchildren, university students, and teachers and directors of all schools not to allow anyone to intimidate them and not to allow people to circulate rumors in the streets to the effect that there is a panic, that there is no school, and that children are dying right and left. This business of parents rushing to schools to demand their children before school is over is the work of agitators taking advantage of the credulity of certain families. [passage omitted]

The police exist to provide security in the streets and in all neighborhoods. The ministry again invites all school directors and teachers to not be taken in by rumors being circulated with a view to causing disorders in the schools. It asks all parents to take hold of themselves and remain level-headed on these occasions, and to not give into pressures such as these being exerted in Haiti—because the students are safer in the schools than in the street where, because of the panic, accidents could occur. [passage omitted]

Student Arrested for Rumors

FL1702211889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent in Saint-Marc tells us that a student spreading false rumors—rumors that caused panic—has been arrested.

[Correspondent] [Passage omitted] At around 1130 yesterday, a youth named Herard Joseph sowed panic in Saint-Marc by going around from school to school pressuring the students, telling them that there was shooting in the streets. [passage omitted] At the last school he went to, College Artibonitien, the school director pressured him and a passing policeman caught him and took him to the barracks.

After an investigation, it was discovered that Joseph is a student in the sixieme class [the first year of secondary school in the Haitian system] at the College Price-Cadet school in Saint-Marc. Joseph is presently in jail and the captain immediately issued a press release addressed to parents, assuring them that security would be provided for the children in their schools.

The same kind of panic struck many other towns in the lower Artibonite Valley. A young man named Claude Benjamin [words indistinct] saying that two children had been shot. [passage omitted] There was general panic in the lower Artibonite Valley yesterday because of these two people: Herard Joseph in Saint-Marc, who is presently in jail, and Claude Benjamin in the Artibonite Valley. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Manley Makes Further Government Appointments

19-Member Cabinet Completed

FL1702184489 Bridgetown CANA in English 1714 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 17, CANA—A dozen new ministers were sworn-in here Thursday night, completing Micheal Manley's 19-member cabinet to run the Jamaica Government since his Peoples' National Party (PNP) won the general election of February 9.

Although there were no unexpected personalities in the second batch of ministers, there were a few surprises particularly in the health and mining and energy portfolios.

Easton Douglas, who was mining and energy spokesman in the shadow cabinet, has been named health minister, an area in which he has little experience. Douglas, a land economist and a chartered land surveyor, will have as his deputy as parliamentary secretary a teacher and political newcomer, Violet Neilson.

"This appointment (Douglas) is very surprising and I think it is sending a wrong signal to the medical profession," said a senior member of the profession at Thursday night's ceremony on the lawns of the governor general's residence. "There are three or four doctors in the PNP team who might have been given the post," said the source, who was close to the PNP administration.

Dr Ken McNeil, the minister of health for most of the 1970's and spokesman of the subject while in opposition, has been appointed a minister without portfolio, with special responsibility for parliamentary affairs. He is to be the government whip in parliament.

Hugh Small, the spokesman for information in the shadow cabinet and an early contender for the finance job, has been named the minister of mining and energy. Small was the minister of finance in the final months of the former PNP government in 1980 and was generally considered to have done a good job. Small has been given a major portfolio in mining and energy, indicative of Manley's trust in his competence, a senior party official told CANA.

Another much noted, if not startling appointment, was that of Portia Simpson to the mixed portfolio of labour, welfare and sports. Simpson, a party vice president with a massive grass roots following, had long been sending signals that she did not want to be shunted off into a

typical women's ministry, party insiders say. However, Manley said Thursday night that she will have responsibility for developing the women agenda that the PNP initiated in the 1970's when it won high marks for social legislation.

Among the most high profile appointments was the minister of industry and commerce, Claude Clarke. Clarke is well-known in Caribbean business circles as a former president of the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA), and major shareholder in the successful chocolate manufacturing company, High Gate Food Products. Clarke took over High Gate in the 1970's when British company, Cadbury, pulled out of Jamaica.

Manley also named his elder brother, Douglas, who served in his 1970's cabinet, as minister of youth, culture and community development.

The other cabinet minister appointed Thursday night were:
O.D. Ramtallie, construction;
Bobby Pickersgill, public utilities and transport;
Horace Clarke, agrilculture;
Ralph Brown, local government;
Carlyle Dunkley, education;
Frank Pringle, tourism.

Both Dunkley and Pringle, who did not contest the election have been named senators, to join foreign minister, David Coore, as the full ministers from the upper house. Coore was among six ministers Manley named Monday.

The others were:
P.J. Patterson, deputy prime minister of planning and production;
Seymour Mullings, finance and public service;
Carl Rattray, attorney general and justice;
Paul Robertson, minister without portifolio in the prime ministers office.

Manley said Thursday night that Robertson, the PNP general secretary, would operate like his "political chief of staff."

Manley also named to his office as a minister of state, Dr Peter Phillips, a lecturer at the consortium graduate school at the University of the West Indies (UWI) who was a leading party policy analyst. It is expected that Phillips will be part of the team of "wise men," led by Manley's advisor, G. Arthur Brown, that will monitor the economy.

At the Foreign Ministry, Coore will have as one of his two deputies of state, former United Nations undersecretary, Dr Lucille Mair. Mair, a senator, was a minister of education in the 1970's.

The other junior foreign minister is Ben Clare, who served as ambassador to both Havana and Moscow in the 1970's.

In all, there are 10 ministers of state and six parliamentary secretaries in the government.

Prime Minister's Advisers Named

FL1702191689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1829 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 17, CANA—Eli Matalon, a one-time national security minister here, is to be an advisor to Prime Minister Michael Manley on the subject, Manley announced Thursday night. Matalon, a member of the powerful family that controls the ICD group of companies, served in the first Manley cabinet of the 1970's.

Manley said Matalon will advise on issues dealing with crime, violence and drug trafficking—areas in which his new government will pay particular attention. Matalon will be named an ambassador-at-large so that he can represent Manley fully in the international sphere, Manley said.

Manley had earlier named United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-administrator and former Central Bank governor, G. Arthur Brown, as his economic advisor.

Brown, also to be appointed an ambassador at large, is to head a so-called "committee of wise men" to help oversee the Jamaican economy, government sources say.

Netherlands Antilles

Saint Martin To Become Independent

LD1502184789 Hilversum International Service in English 1130 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The Caribbean island of Saint Martin is preparing itself for independence from the Netherlands Antilles. The announcement was made in Willemstad at a meeting (?of) Prime Minister Liberia-Peters with elected representatives of all the Antilles islands. The Saint Martin deputy [name indistinct] said that both the ruling Democratic Party and the opposition, the Saint Martin People's Party, agree that the island must ultimately become independent.

Panama's Solis Palma Arrives, Meets President
PA2102043289 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Report on statements by Manuel Solis Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency, to unidentified reporter in Mexico City on 20 February—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma is in Mexico City.

[Solis] "The Group of Eight's decision to condition Panama's readmission to the group on the full exercise of democracy in Panama is, in our view, inappropriate, because we feel there is a broad and complete democracy in Panama."

Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma made these statements after arriving in Mexico City for a private 2-day visit. Solis Palma pointed out that his country continues to search for peace through dialogue and negotiations and not through war, and that domestic conditions must not determine Panama's readmission to the Group of Eight.

[Solis] "If the Group of Eight decides that our attitudes stray from the new guidelines they laid down for the group, we regret it, but we will not let their decision become a major problem."

Regarding the elections scheduled for 7 May, Solis Palma reiterated that the broadest guarantees have been given to allow all segments of Panamanian society to participate in the elections. The Panamanian president said that what is essential for Panama is to be a free and sovereign nation.

[Solis] "We will help those who are committed to continuing the Panamanian people's nationalist struggle for sovereignty in their bid to win power."

Solis Palma also stated that, under the present circumstances, there is no way the Latin American foreign debt can be paid.

[Solis] "We feel a front should be created of—at least—all Latin American countries, which will give their views to creditors."

Solis Palma thanked Mexican President Salinas de Gortari on behalf of his government and the Panamanian people for the solidarity shown by Mexico toward Panama during Panama's current period of political transition. Solis Palma met today with Salinas de Gortari at Los Pinos presidential palace. Bilateral relations were also analyzed during their meeting.

President Solis Palma's delegation arrived at Door No 1 of Los Pinos at 1700. The Panamanian head of state was accompanied by Mexican Foreign Affairs Minister Fernando Solana and Panamanian Foreign Affairs Minister Jorge Ritter. Panamanian Government Press Secretary Jose Hernandez and the Mass Communications Directorate of the Mexican Presidency reported that the meeting was cordial and that the presidents agreed to increase economic, political, social, and cultural relations between both countries.

'Diplomatic Note' on Border Ditch Forthcoming
PA2102033289 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0255 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] A bulletin from the Mexican Foreign Secretariat reports that because of recent statements by U.S. authorities that the planned ditch to solve drainage problems in Otay Mesa in California would be used for purposes other than those originally planned, instructions have been sent to the Mexican Embassy in Washington to present a diplomatic note to the U.S. State Department on this matter.

Both the note to the U.S. State Department and the instructions to the Mexican ambassador point out that once it has been confirmed that a U.S. Government agency intends to use the proposed ditch for a purpose other than that originally contemplated, the Mexican Government will formally ask the U.S. Government, within the spirit of friendship and cooperation characterizing relations between the two countries, to discard this option and immediately begin studying other alternatives for the prompt and adequate solution of drainage problems.

Commentary on U.S. 'Interventionist Project'
PA1802025689 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 11 Feb 89 p 5

[Article by Jose De Villa: "Storm Winds"]

[Text] Through its director, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] has described Mexico as the world's international espionage capital, comparable only to Vienna.

The director of the CIA said that the Mexican republic is "fragile" and that this is a matter of concern for Washington. He failed to mention, however, that a majority of the spies are from the United States and that the supposed Mexican fragility is due completely to our creditors—mostly from the United States—and the economic policy of the United States, which buys a few products from us at low prices, sells everything it can to us at high prices, pays low wages to Mexican workers, and is able to pocket most of the money obtained by its multinationals with a minimum investment in Mexico.

The storm winds that some are trying to send in our direction from the North, the domino that will be set in motion to lure us into the trap of U.S. greed, has all the earmarks of an intervention project similar to others that the United States has implemented in most of the countries of the world.

The Mexican nation has enough experience to stop a new U.S. intervention at the appropriate time. The music of the sirens is only appealing to those who beg outside the offices of powerful U.S. senators and who, like cowards, are silent when an American congressman makes a great public fuss and advocates intervention in Mexico, although only by creating a big scandal.

At the appropriate time, the Mexican people will prevent the National Action Party [PAN] and its roving businessman—who advertises his ambitions and clumsiness in Mexico and the United States—from acting against our sovereignty with the support of the efficient submarine [reference to and wordplay on PAN, which means "bread" in Spanish] that Washington has prescribed for our "ailments." The fact that the PAN has enjoyed the traditional blessing and support of the Catholic Church since 1810 will not serve it well in its attempt to commit treason.

Foreign powers have invaded us many times and have stolen more than half our territory, but they have never been able to take our pride and dignity away. The system of political parties that Mexico has today, which to some poses a threat to our sovereignty, will in the end turn out to be its best support. It will clarify things, publicize trends, uncover treason, and show the people who is on the U.S. side, who is on the Mexican side, and who is on the side of political infantilism. The storm winds that they want to send us will also serve to bring us closer to the meaning and origin of our revolutionary project as a nation, suspend revisionism, and strengthen the struggle for the best causes of the Mexican people. The U.S. interventionist project in Mexico will in the long run consolidate the social forces committed to the defense of our independence and stop the advance of a right wing that has ably taken advantage of the left wing's lack of organizational skills and ability to react, the political and revolutionary lethargy of a party that used to be a majority when it fully responded to the aspirations of the people—a party that is involved today in restructuring its forces and regaining its credibility.

The attempt to slide the country to the right has met a most incredible roadblock created by the "best" U.S. tactical moves: The nomination of Negroponte [as U.S. ambassador to Mexico] and [CIA Director] William Webster's statements have dissipated the imaginary veil and revealed the reality of George Bush's political resolve to meddle in Mexico's political affairs. In contemplating that plan, which is public and clumsy, the United States has failed to appropriately weigh the historical solidarity of the Mexican people toward national independence and their violent, united, and unequivocal efforts to prevent Washington from repeating the episodes of 1836, 1848, and 1914.

The CIA, Negroponte, and Bush should rest assured that Mexico's fragility, labor instability, and street protests, to which Webster referred, will disappear as soon as the people see a sign of the United States intervening in Mexico, and they will turn all their efforts against the conniving submarines, cassocks [reference to the Catholic Church clergymen], lobbyists, and businessmen who oppose Mexico's political independence. Just like its national Army, the Mexican people are not fooled by bastard interests from either inside or outside the country.

PRI President Discusses Rebuilding Party

PA1902025189 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 12 Feb 89 pp 1, 3

[Report by Jose Octavio Ochoa]

[Excerpts] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 11 Feb—PRI members are not afraid of rebuilding their party to reorient its original ideas and revolutionary spirit, PRI President Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta told local party representatives today.

The PRI national leader, in addressing the Sinaloa Political Unity group, said irreversible changes in the organization are necessary. The event was attended by Governor Francisco Labastida Ochoa, PRI deputies, senators, municipal presidents, and activists.

"The PRI renewal must necessarily involve changes, but it will also represent the recovery of original ideas, valuable contributions from previous leaders, from old leaders," Colosio said.

The meeting was held at the Executive Hotel in this city, and Donaldo Colosio Murrieta asked the party's activists to make a realistic, objective, and responsible analysis of the political organization's historic actions "to confront future challenges with courage."

He added that on 4 March, when the PRI celebrates its 60th anniversary, the party's strategies and tactics will be reorganized according to the needs of each region so that it may become "competitive."

Colosio added: We are looking for a new form of participation in the PRI's ranks to successfully compete in the elections that will be held in 14 states.

He also explained that the changes and transformations to be presented by the PRI state directorates and the National Executive Council itself will be designed to turn the party into an organization that plans for the future. The PRI president also said that the government

must fulfill its constitutional duty and support the elections. However, he noted, this does preclude the opposition's supervision to ensure that the elections are as honest and democratic as possible. [passage omitted]

What we are seeking, Colosio said, is a new, more vigorous form of party representation in the election booths, in organizations, and at meetings with representatives from all the political parties.

Regarding the elections that will be held in 14 states, the PRI leader emphasized that his party will pay an equal amount of attention to each election because, he admitted, new trends and factions have emerged from the country's ideological pluralism.

Colosio stressed that the existence of these new strong trends is healthy because it will lead to the consolidation of authentic parties "and the PRI is the first to strive for this."

Meanwhile, Colosio's speech at the breakfast hosted by the political parties in Sinaloa again called on PRI members to make a "great effort to regroup."

He underlined that the PRI must confront whatever election it participates in with intense political activity, a renewed attitude, cohesive militancy, and a spirit of unity.

We must recognize and evaluate the changes that are taking place in Mexican society, Colosio said. We must look at regional realities and avoid making general assessments that, far from adding to the PRI's range of activities, would limit them.

We must adjust our strategies and our political tactics depending on the region. It is essential that we do this. It is a necessity if the PRI is to be a competitive party. This position has deep internal implications for our party, Colosio said. [passage omitted]

Hiriart Cited on Possible Pemex Production Cuts

PA1802195489 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Fernando Hiriart Balderrama, energy, mines, and parastate industry secretary, said yesterday that Mexico would agree to reduce its oil exports by 5 or 6 percent if an agreement is reached between OPEC and the independent oil-producing countries.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Will this have a significant effect?

[Hiriart] No, the reduction will be no more than 5 or 6 percent. [end recording]

Secretary Hiriart made this statement during an interview after the opening of the popular consultation forum on energy and mining. He added that if there is an agreement between Mexico and OPEC, the price of a barrel of oil would be $18.

It was reported at the forum that while Pemex has been able to show a profit, the electricity sector continues to operate in the red, even though its financial situation has improved in the past few years.

Teachers March To Demand Pay Increase

PA1702215689 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Thousands of teachers marched in Mexico City on 15 February. The march began at the Higher Normal School and ended at the Zocalo Square.

While marching, the teachers shouted slogans demanding a new wage increase. They also expressed their discontent over the way in which the new members of the National Committee of the National Trade Union of Education Workers were elected.

The Roads and Safety Secretariat estimated that 10,000 teachers participated in the demonstration.

Simultaneously, a strike was staged today at the official preprimary, primary, and secondary schools and other educational centers.

In addition, three universities could begin a strike during the next few hours if an agreement is not reached with university authorities regarding a wage increase of more than 10 percent. The strike has been announced by administrative employees and teachers at some universities in the nation's capital and in the interior of the country.

State Police Discover Arms Cache in Sonora

PA1702135889 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Report by Francisco Arenas Murillo]

[Text] Mexican Army troops have discovered a large arsenal in a cave in the mountains of Sonora State, between the communities of Napori Chico and Mesa de Tres Rios.

The arsenal consists of 62 large-caliber weapons, including 45 AK-47 assault rifles, 15 AR-15 assault rifles, a 12-gauge shotgun, and a .45-caliber submachinegun, as well as ammunition clips.

Division General Angel Barron Viescas, commander of the 4th Military Zone, reported that State Judicial Police officers discovered the weapons. The police asked the Mexican Army for support in removing the arsenal, given the large amount of weapons found and the possibility of booby traps or other dangers in the cave.

The weapons were moved to the 4th Military Zone headquarters in Hermosillo, Sonora State, and the Army's investigations are continuing. Several Army platoons are combing the area where the weapons were found in an effort to find clues that will lead to the arrest of those who had built up the arms cache.

Gen Barron Viescas said the discovery of these weapons is a very serious matter, especially since the intended use of these weapons is not known. The military commander dismissed conjectures that Sonora State's mountains are a link in the chain of arms smuggling to Central or South America. He said the terrain makes that area inaccesible and noted that the Mexican Army is very alert in that zone. Instead, Gen Barron said he thought the weapons were to be used by drug trafficking rings to counter the Army's drug interdiction programs.

Costa Rica

PLN Selects Castillo as Presidential Candidate

PA2002174189 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1210 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] I gladly take up the sacred banners of the National Liberation Party [PLN] proudly and humbly, Carlos Manuel Castillo stated yesterday. Speaking from the green balcony after learning he had been nominated at the PLN convention, Carlos Manuel Castillo addressed the thousands of Costa Rican PLN members.

I gladly take up the sacred banners of my party proudly, responsibly, and above all, humbly, the PLN candidate stated. Carlos Manuel Castillo extended his thanks to all the people who have supported him and who will support him. He added: Regardless of party affiliations, I thank all of you because you made this a lofty campaign.

The PLN members did not choose my cause; it is the cause of my party, Carlos Manuel Castillo stated. The PLN members chose my message, which does not reflect my cause but rather reflects the PLN's cause. Carlos Manuel Castillo addressed all the PLN members last night as PLN presidential candidate. He said he is committed to all, but especially to youths, women, and the elderly. He said he was accepting his commitment responsibly and with an attitude of renewal, for the good of the party and the country. To conclude, Carlos Manuel Castillo sent greetings to President Oscar Arias Sanchez and PLN founder Jose Figueres.

Central Bank Not Paying 1989 Foreign Debt

PA1802024989 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0105 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] The Central Bank has decided not to pay the foreign debt this year in order to meet the government's goal to reduce inflation. According to Central Bank President Eduardo Lizano, the bank's losses were an important factor in the degree of inflation in 1988. The Central Bank has therefore decided not to pay Costa Rica's $1.3 billion foreign debt with commercial banks.

Lizano said that a restructuring of the foreign debt is being considered to help overcome the Central Bank's losses. He added that the Central Bank is hoping to curb the inflation rate so that it will not exceed 12 percent this year.

Lizano conceded that the Central Bank's losses had an important effect on the inflation rate in 1988. He explained that the Central Bank had been suffering for a long time from a devaluation which was not actually being felt elsewhere and which did not adjust to the country's real situation. The bank was thus forced to acquire debts with international banks and organizations and had to issue new colons to cancel the interest on these debts. This issuing of new currency affected the inflation rate. Lizano did not specify what percentage of the inflation rate was caused by the bank's losses.

El Salvador

Duarte's Health Reportedly 'Deteriorated'

PA2002151689 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's health has deteriorated in the past few hours. The Salvadoran president has been receiving a new chemotherapy treatment since 16 February in an attempt to stop the advancement of the cancerous tumor affecting his stomach and liver.

Duarte's doctor, (Benjamin Terian), said that after examining the patient, it was determined his liver had swollen. The doctor added that the result of the new treatment will be known in 10-15 days.

During the past 9 months, Duarte has had seven chemotherapy treatments—the first one in the United States. The last time Duarte experienced health problems was in December in Mexico while attending the inauguration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Defense Minister Threatens To 'Oust' Duarte

PA2002125489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1206 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova last week warned that the Armed Forces would be forced to take action if elections are postponed. If the president remains in power 1 day after his presidential term—thus outside constitutional order—the Armed Forces would be obligated to oust him, Vides Casanova said.

FMLN Reportedly Orders Unilateral Truce

PA2002152389 Havana International Service in Spanish 1405 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] The FMLN has ordered a unilateral truce in El Salvador to facilitate the meeting which Salvadoran rebels will hold today and tomorrow in Mexico with representatives from Salvadoran political parties.

FMLN spokesmen said the unilateral suspension of hostilities will begin today, but they clarified FMLN rebels will respect the truce as long as the regime's Army does not provoke clashes.

Representatives from the FMLN and 13 Salvadoran political parties will discuss, at the meeting in Mexico, a rebel proposal calling for a 6-month delay of the 19 March presidential elections in exchange for recognizing the legitimacy of the electoral process.

Truce Termed 'Maneuver'

PA2002233489 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2310 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command in El Salvador on 20 February; (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 21 February carries an identical version of this FMLN communique.]

[Text] The FMLN General Command announces to the public that the report of an alleged cease-fire carried by certain media is completely false. The report has been circulated by the Armed Forces General Staff in order to create confusion and to demobilize our forces.

This General Staff maneuver is being implemented at a time when the Army and police have increased their repression of our people by militarizing workplaces, arresting and murdering workers, economic strangling of resettlers, bombing civilians, and committing acts of aggression against the National University.

Any measure taken by the FMLN General Command will be publicized through our radio or published media. Therefore, we call on the media not to be deceived by false information coming from the Armed Forces General Staff or the Christian Democratic Government.

[Signed] FMLN, El Salvador, 20 February 1989

Political Party Leaders on Meeting With FMLN

PA1802043489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0313 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Report by Mauricio Funez from the presidential palace in San Salvador—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Representatives of all the political parties this morning met with President Jose Napoleon Duarte to discuss their meeting with the FMLN General Command in Mexico City on Monday.

The meeting at the government palace was in conjunction with the consultations with the state branches that the parties agreed to hold before meeting with the FMLN in Mexico City. It was reported that President Duarte warned them of the constitutional limitations regarding whatever commitments may be made in Mexico City. He reminded them of the positions expressed by the Executive Branch and the Armed Forces on the issue.

[First unidentified speaker] "Engineer Duarte said he approves of this because the parties are positively working to hold a dialogue and find solutions. However, he recalled the constitutional limitations that exist concerning the search for solutions. He also stressed that we should bear in mind the statement issued by the Army last week."

Nevertheless, the consultations with the state branches of government will not change the positions that each party has adopted for its meeting with the rebel commanders. The only tangible agreement approved by consensus between the parties is the decision to meet with the rebels in Mexico City. The parties have yet to reach an agreement on the basic issues included in the FMLN proposal.

[Second unidentified speaker] "I have said that I felt pessimistic. I am not too optimistic because, judging from certain expressions and statements, I have seen that there is no consensus on the FMLN proposal and its most important points. However, I do not want to rule out any possibility. We must wait and see what each party has to say—particularly ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], which will be alone and isolated. It is premature to say anything. We do not know if the parties' positions are really authentic or not, particularly the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. The PDC candidate recently issued a public statement saying he is willing to withdraw his candidacy if the elections are postponed."

[Third unidentified speaker] "We must wait. We do not know what the FMLN's reaction will be. We might find a different solution during the talks. We will seek a consensus to attain peace, and we might receive proposals that could settle the problems that still prevail in the country."

[Fourth unidentified speaker] "We must not confuse things. There is no formula that does not violate the Constitution. The Constitution clearly specifies a democratic system. This means that the political parties exist for one reason: to keep democracy alive and to participate in periodic, free, and honest elections so that the people can cast their ballots and choose their leaders. However, the 19 March elections could lead to an agreement, even with the FMLN. The elections should be recognized and the government resulting from the elections should be respected. We could later talk about the conditions for the rebels to join the country's institutional life."

The outlook for today's meeting is uncertain, particularly because things may change during a political negotiation if the two sides adopt a flexible attitude and rectify or correct positions that appeared to be well-defined until now. The only clear thing is that the parties have yet to reach a consensus on the basic points of the FMLN proposal, particularly concerning the request to postpone the presidential elections and decree a cease-fire. This last issue is somewhat critical since the Armed Forces must also accept it.

Guerrilla Leader Comments

PA2102012889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0021 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Oaxtepec, Mexico, 20 Feb (EFE)—Salvadoran guerrilla leader Jorge Shafik Handal said here today that

if his proposal for the postponement of the Salvadoran elections is rejected, "then no agreement will be reached at the meeting" being held in the Mexican city of Oaxtepec.

Handal said that agreements being sought in the talks between guerrilla representatives and members of 13 Salvadoran parties are aimed at establishing a cease-fire before 19 March in order to create the conditions necessary for electoral reform to be carried out.

The guerrillas and political party representatives are discussing the rebels' offer to respect the results of the elections if they are postponed for 6 months.

The FMLN has said it will respect the results of the elections scheduled for 19 March if they are postponed until 15 September in order to guarantee the purity of the vote and a mass turnout at the polls, among other things.

This is the first time since the civil war began in El Salvador 9 years ago that the political parties have agreed to meet with FMLN leaders.

During a recess of the meeting, Handal said this meeting is the first step toward a resolution of the armed conflict. However, he said it will have to be followed by meetings with the government and the military.

Handal added that ammending the Salvadoran Constitution to postpone the elections is possible "if there is political resolve on the Army's part."

"The purpose of this meeting is not only to reach agreements on disarmament, but also to resolve the armed conflict," the FMLN's representative said.

He also said the FMLN representatives have always made concrete proposals. He added that they are prepared to discuss the political parties' proposals.

Handal feels the problem with the elections is linked to the solution of the armed conflict; "thus, it is necessary to create the conditions for holding credible elections."

Referring to the meeting of Central American presidents that took place in El Salvador recently, Handal said it served to strengthen the diplomatic path as a means of solving conflicts.

At this meeting in Mexico, Handal is accompanied by Roberto Roca, another guerrilla leader, and by Salvador Samayoa and Ana Guadalupe Martinez, members of the rebels' political-diplomatic commission.

The political parties represented at the meeting are, among others, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA (rightist), the Christian Democratic Party, PDC (presently in power), and the Democratic Convergence, CD (leftist).

Francisco Merino and Armando Calderon represent ARENA; Pedro Alvergue represents the PDC; and Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora represent the CD.

FMLN Urges Involvement in Peace Proposal

PA1802041389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Attention: Our peace proposal is a solution for Salvadoran refugees. Conservative estimates indicate that there are approximately 800,000 Salvadorans living in the United States, having fled insurmountable economic difficulties, meager salaries, unemployment, political persecution, and forceful recruitment. They went to the United States to find jobs, and that merits our solidarity. The controversial Simpson-Rodino law threatens our fellow countrymen with arrest and deportation. The Committee of Salvadoran Refugees in the United States and the Committee of Central American Refugees began a hunger strike in Washington outside the Capitol, the seat of the U.S. Congress, to demand that the enforcement of this law be postponed for 2 years.

As refugees, our fellow countrymen are legitimately demanding that their civil and human rights be respected. This demand is just and has the backing of solidarity organizations worldwide. The FMLN is waiting for and demanding and hoping that the peace proposal will take into account this important and numerous contingent of Salvadoran refugees in the United States and other countries. In our peace proposal we clearly specified that the March elections must be postponed until September and that pertinent steps must be taken to guarantee those Salvadoran refugees their legitimate right to vote.

Our fellow countrymen, refugees in the United States represent at present the main source of foreign exchange for the country—even more than the exchange earned through exports. It cannot be argued that this legitimate economic force should have a vote and a say in national political decisions. The FMLN proposal asks that the elections become a contribution toward peace, specifies the refugees' right to vote, demands an end to repression and U.S. meddling, and states that the military must remain in their garrisons on election day to make credible and legitimate the Salvadoran claim of clean elections.

Acceptance of the FMLN proposal will put the nation on the path to peace. Our fellow countrymen who are refugees in the United States will once again see the light at the end of the tunnel, a democratic future, economic development, and a new democratic government that will end the war. This would be the start of economic development and progress, which is so badly needed by this group of Salvadorans in exile, which has proven its ability to work hard and be productive. We take off our hats to the struggle of our fellow countrymen in the United States, invite them to support the peace proposal, and wish for their future return to the fatherland.

Guerrillas Claim 'Execution' of Former Commander

PA1702142089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0615 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Feb (AFP)—The FMLN has claimed responsibility for the execution tonight in San Salvador of former guerrilla commander Miguel Castellanos.

In a communique issued by the clandestine station Radio Venceremos, the guerrillas reported that Castellanos had collaborated with the Reagan administration's counterinsurgency plans and "had betrayed several comrades."

Castellanos, 40 years old, was a commander of the People's Liberation Forces, one of the five organizations that compose the FMLN. He defected in 1985 and since then had been working at a Christian Democratic Party political analysis center.

Castellanos was executed tonight by a guerrilla urban command, which shot him as he was traveling in a vehicle near La Flor Blanca National Stadium.

Ungo on Castellanos Murder

PA1802045789 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Political leaders have condemned the assassination of Miguel Castellanos and have said that violence does not provide solutions to our country's problems. The assassination of Napoleon Romero, better known as Miguel Castellanos, has produced various reactions from national political groups. There is agreement, however, that this type of action is deplorable and must end.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] This has been an unfortunate and condemnable act. Ideas must be fought with ideas and not by taking a person's life. They [the FMLN] say they want to join the political process, but killing people who break away from them is not a way of doing so. [end recording]

[Begin second unidentified speaker recording] Mr Castellanos' death has produced much consternation because we want to talk of peace. Despite any conflict that Mr Castellanos may have had with those who killed him, we are dismayed by this action. We did not agree with his ideas or his activities either, but killing him is definitely not the best solution. [end recording]

Colonel Ochoa Perez of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and Guillermo Ungo of the Democratic Convergence discuss the possibility that this assassination serves as a warning to those who have links with the FMLN:

[Begin Ochoa recording] This action is completely negative. We are promoting a democratic process, and we have invited the FMLN. All the talks that the parties have held among themselves to discuss holding a dialogue with the FMLN are evidence that we are willing to promote a democratic process, but they have to demonstrate goodwill.

Perhaps there are FMLN members who would like to join the process, but after seeing the assassination of Miguel Castellanos they will have to remain tied to the FMLN. Now I understand why Democratic Convergence members speak of the existence of some document whenever we ask them why they do not break with the FMLN. I think their problem is that they fear FMLN reprisals. They have not said it, but I am saying it. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Ungo] It is regrettable that he died like that. It is also regrettable that he contributed to other companeros having suffered that kind of death.

[Reporter] Is this killing evidence of a division within the FMLN, considering that it will have an effect on the talks between the political parties and the FMLN? Or do you think it will have no effect?

[Ungo] I do not think it should have an effect on those talks. It is evident that a war is going on. I heard a colonel complain during a television program about some FMLN military actions, but, on the other hand, they advertise all the Armed Forces' military activities. It seems to me that the only thing to do is to hold serious talks to lessen the intensity of the war and eventually to end it.

[Reporter] Somebody said that what has happened to Castellanos could discourage FMLN militants from renouncing violence and joining the democratic process.

[Ungo] I do not think so. I believe that is mere speculation. [end recording]

It had been thought that the killing would have an effect on the talks to be held in Mexico between the FMLN and the political parties, but the schedule stands and there is no plan to change it.

FMLN Sabotage Causes General Power Blackout

PA1802011289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2251 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Colonel Carlos Melendez, an adviser to the country's energy producing and distributing industry, reported that Salvadoran guerrilla groups today left most of the country without electricity by stepping up attacks on the country's electricity network.

Melendez told ACAN-EFE that the guerrilla groups sabotaged seven high-tension power lines (five 115,000-volt lines and two 46,000-volt lines). The attacks affected the power distribution substations located in the residential areas of La Mascota, San Sebastian, and Cucumacayan.

Melendez said the thermal power station at Acajutla in Sonsonate Department, 84 km west of San Salvador, has been put in operation to make up for the lack of energy resulting from the sabotage.

The blackouts occurred in various parts of the country, paralyzing production activities and creating traffic jams.

The military commander said that all the rebel sabotage carried out throughout the country between 9 and 12 February resulted in extra expenses totaling approximately $50,000 since 75,000 gallons of fuel had to be used during the presidential summit on Monday and Tuesday.

Melendez said that rebel sabotage since 1980 has caused losses of approximately $58 million as a result of the destruction of 700 electric structures in 2,450 attacks on the system.

The guerrilla groups destroyed 77 electric power structures in 579 attacks in 1988, causing approximately $9.1 million in damage, the military commander advised.

Guatemala

Cerezo on Economy, Summit, Regional Issues

PA1702170589 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 89

["Exclusive" interview with President Vinicio Cerezo by Gabriel Garcia in Guatemala City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] Mr President, what is the top priority problem in your government, and how do you plan to solve it?

[Cerezo] From the very beginning of our administration, we identified our priorities. The first was to promote freedom and to create a political opening. We wanted to guarantee all Guatemalans the opportunity to participate in the nation's social and political life without fearing political repression. I think we succeeded in that first priority. The number of labor unions has increased. There are now 17 political parties, and none of them has been harassed or repressed.

Our second priority, which was essential for beginning and developing the democratic process, was to solve our economic problem. Our goals were to stabilize the national economy, strengthen the quetzal, and create the basis for a sustained economic development that would last throughout our administration and for as long as democratic governments exist in our country.

I believe we succeeded in this, too. We reduced inflation to an average rate of less than 12 percent per year. We also strengthened our currency. We reduced the price of the dollar from 4.50 or 4.80 quetzals to the dollar to 2.50 or 2.70 quetzals to the dollar. We have achieved great stability. The annual growth rate had dropped to negative 2 percent, and we turned it around. Our annual growth rate now is 3.8 percent, according to official figures, and 4.0 according to unofficial figures provided by the private sector.

That allowed us to create many jobs and to promote an economic growth that will surely help us to have a sustained development in the future. We are pleased, because those were our two main priorities.

[Garcia] What strategies did you use to strengthen the quetzal? I remember when I came here approximately 2 years ago, I was very happy because the exchange rate was 2 quetzals to the lempira. Now the rate is .73 or .74 quetzals to the lempira. What strategies or methods did you use?

[Cerezo] We created a formula in which we combined two essential aspects. The timely implementation of needed economic measures was one aspect. We are talking about a number of measures. We reduced the amount of money in circulation; we tried to pay off the internal public debt—we used up to 20 percent of the national budget to pay off the internal public debt and reduce inflation—we reduced public spending, and we progressively spent more on capital investments instead of administrative cost. We also restored the confidence to the private sector, and we took steps to promote nontraditional exports. Nontraditional exports increased by over 200 percent. That is something incredible. We also renegotiated the foreign debt and created a single foreign exchange rate. That was one of the most difficult measures to take, because it meant eliminating the black market and other types of foreign exchange outlets that are created when a currency no longer corresponds to economic reality. We also eliminated many subsidies, including those for businesses and several government agencies. Creating a single foreign exchange rate was a significant decision, because even though this has a short-term inflationary effect, inflation eventually is reduced.

We combined these steps with a series of social measures. We invested in the country's interior. We helped the production sector and improved certain infrastructures, which increased productivity. That is our formula.

[Garcia] I congratulate you, because in Honduras the exchange rate is still 4 lempiras to the dollar, and there is no way to shut down the black market. This morning I was reading in the papers about your 1989 budget. According to budget experts, this is the largest budget in Guatemalan history, at 3.6 billion quetzals. Why is it so large?

[Cerezo] That is true. There is no problem with the size of the budget. There would be a problem if we had a budget deficit—in other words, if we did not have the money for that budget. The budget is larger this year

because of several reasons. One of the basic reasons is that we decided to increase the government's spending on public services. Each Central American country has had very serious problems in paying off what we call the social debt. In other words, for many years we have accumulated a debt—or an obligation—to the needy groups, including poor rural and urban areas and the lower-middle class. There is unemployment and a lack of schools, health centers, and local roads. To fulfill those demands, the government must increase its budget to spend money on those basic demands. This way the government will meet its social obligations. There is a dilemma, however. If one wants to increase the state budget to pay off the social debt, one needs more money, and to have more money we introduced tax reform. That reform was intended to increase the collection of taxes from those who were not paying all their taxes. We did more than just increase the tax rates; we stepped up ways of collecting taxes. The result was that government income increased by 114 percent. That allowed us to spend more money. Some of those extra funds were directly spent by the central government, and some were distributed to municipalities in the interior, which have the autonomy to spend money on what they consider necessary.

Obviously that gave us [5-second break in reception] spent in the interior and over 8 percent of the national budget. In other words, we are spending millions of quetzals in the country's interior. Most democratic states spend on two basic areas: wages and public services. Businessmen continue enjoying their property and rights, but they must somehow contribute to the well-being of the entire nation.

[Garcia] One cannot deny you are a Central American leader. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has been unable to become a regional leader because he is too closely linked to the extreme left. You, however, have overcome many obstacles since you became president. That leadership quality prompts me to ask you about the 13-14 February presidential summit. How do you view that summit?

[Cerezo] I am generally an optimist—that is one of my defects or my virtues, I am not sure which. We have been talking a lot with the other Central American presidents. I believe there are two reasons to think the summit may have positive results for each of the Central American nations.

We have already signed very important agreements, but we must implement them, taking into account the conditions in each of the Central American countries. Each country has a problem to be solved. I think the summit will be successful because reality is the best argument. Nicaragua cannot survive. In other words, because of Nicaragua's political system and the war, as well as any other reasons you may want to add, Nicaragua has failed to face its economic and social problems. A 27,000-percent inflation rate cannot be reduced under unstable conditions. Nicaragua needs peace and stability. Obviously, a political opening is needed to have peace and stability.

I believe President Daniel Ortega is a very intelligent man. He has shown that he is aware of the Nicaraguan situation, and all of the presidents must discuss the situation in that country.

In El Salvador, the guerrilla movement has reached the point where violence has led only to the systematic destruction of the Salvadoran infrastructure. We must find a solution. The countries that give aid to the guerrillas must understand the war will not solve the situation.

Therefore, I believe there is consensus and willingness among the presidents. Reality demands that we reach an agreement. Reaching an agreement of this kind could enable us to get economic aid, resume the dialogue, and stabilize our countries, which would lead to economic development. This creates a great need for making the right decisions at the summit.

[Garcia] I suppose the Venezuelan president invited you to his inauguration as part of his plan to create a greater political opening and to achieve peace in Central America. What did Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez tell you about the Central American problem, particularly the Honduran, Salvadoran, and Nicaraguan problems?

[Cerezo] The Venezuelan president has expressed deep interest in giving all his support so the decisions we make become reality. He will do so through political cooperation, and economic support if necessary, particularly to create enough confidence in us so the EEC, the United States—which we must take into account in our decisions—and of course the United Nations can implement their economic aid plans for Central America. I believe the presence of President Carlos Andres will be... [changes thought] and the presence of the new Mexican president, who is very interested in Central America, will turn Central America into the focus of attention. This will help us overcome and solve our problems.

[Garcia] Do you believe Contadora could be revived with the Venezuelan president's contributions?

[Cerezo] Perez is going to give much interest to Contadora. However, he and all other members of the Contadora Group and the Group of Eight admit that we—the Central American presidents and our successors—are the main actors on the Central American stage, for better or worse. Because we are very concerned about the future, we have tried to set up a permanent dialogue. By this, I mean the Central American Parliament.

[Garcia] Speaking of the Central American Parliament, what is your opinion on this? Honduras has already selected its representatives to the parliament.

[Cerezo] We have made much progress. I believe it is very important for our people to realize the many advantages of the Central American Parliament and what few disadvantages it has. The advantages are: First, it helps democracy in countries where there have been no elections with broad participation; second, the parliament would look for solutions to the problems of all its members; third, when a decision by the parliament affects a country, each of the presidents has the right to vote on the decision. This prevents our national interests from being undermined. The presidents' final decisions will be based on consensus; fourth, this would be a new step toward Central American political integration and toward solving some problems that have affected each of us.

The parliament will be established. Costa Rica is the only one that has not yet approved the parliament. I have been told President Arias sent the bill to the Assembly, and both the opposition and the progovernment parties have agreed to approve it in the next 2 months.

[Garcia] Did you talk to President Azcona in Caracas?

[Cerezo] We talked to President Azcona, who has also been very frank when outlining the problems Honduras faces as a result of the Central American conflict and the contras' presence in Honduras, which is a truly serious dilemma. I could see that he is very interested in finding a solution to the Nicaraguan conflict, because that also would benefit Honduras.

[Garcia] If you had a problem like the contras in Guatemala, how would you solve it?

[Cerezo] I would simply try to convince the United States to take care of a problem they created for us. [Cerezo laughs] Obviously, we would have to take into consideration the situation of these people, who are suffering the consequences of an internal conflict in Nicaragua. We would try to solve it through [words indistinct], among them by creating conditions so the contras could stay as refugees and receive economic assistance in the country where they settle, but without letting them become a problem for that country's security. Another possibility would be to continue trying to do what we are doing in the case of Nicaragua. That is, urging Nicaragua to create the appropriate political conditions so contras wishing to return to their country—which is their right—can do so. This is what we and other Central American countries have been doing with the refugees who fled our countries.

[Garcia] Did you also talk to President Ortega, and if so, what did you talk about?

[Cerezo] I spoke with Ortega about the need to face reality. Political ideologies are useless when one faces a specific problem—such as the war—and finds no solution to that problem. Then one has to find a different mechanism. One also has to be flexible. I believe President Ortega plans to make new proposals at the summit. We are willing to listen to the proposals and to discuss them for the benefit of all of Central America.

[Garcia] Before my arrival in Guatemala yesterday, I heard that you agree it is necessary to have a rapprochement with Fidel Castro so he will be more concerned about the Central American crisis. Is that true, or is this just political speculation?

[Cerezo] Let us clear up this issue, because it is very important. I have not been talking about rapprochement with Fidel. I think most countries in our area have some type of relations with Cuba. The isolation of the past is almost over. Countries in our area have cultural, political, or other relations with Cuba. What I have emphasized is the need to discuss a problem, which is a very clear reality. Castro has had a key role in promoting an idea in South and Central America, which is the idea of an armed revolution. We could make much progress in the Central American peace problem [words indistinct] and by convincing the United States. But violence will continue if someone continues to finance and support armed movements.

More than reaching an agreement with Castro or asking for his help, what we have to do is discuss what kind of proposals we are going to make to Castro. We should ask him that, instead of continuing to do just what he pleases, he should take into account the Central American peoples' decision: We want peace, we want no violence, and we want a political opening so communists or socialists can participate in politics, abiding by the laws and respecting the desires of our people, who want to live in peace. We are going to do the same with the United States. The United States has talked with the Soviet Union, and somehow they have reached understandings—we cannot say agreements. Therefore, we Central American presidents should tell all groups: Listen, we have had enough of this; we want to live in peace, so let us live in peace. If you are friends of a group that follows a certain ideology, advise that group to return to its country of origin and to act like other political parties, which persuade people with their statements, beliefs, and ideas, instead of using weapons to achieve their goals.

[Garcia] Castro said he would gladly agree to return to the OAS. What is your opinion on this?

[Cerezo] This is a subject we are going to have to discuss. Of course, he would be glad [Cerezo laughs] to return to the OAS—after all, I think he has wanted to do this for a long time. To readmit a country to the OAS, however, it is necessary to take, as a starting point, its willingness for peaceful coexistence with other countries. The country

that wants to be readmitted to the OAS should not be our judge. Rather, that country should, as we do, respect the autonomy each country has to solve its problems.

[Garcia] Mr President, you, who are very concerned about Central American problems, are aware that the Salvadoran guerrillas are making a series of proposals to the Salvadoran Government. What is your opinion? Have you talked to Duarte and or the guerrillas? Would you agree to be a mediator between the Salvadoran guerrillas and the government to bring peace to that small country?

[Cerezo] If President Duarte wanted this, I would accept it. We need to have his consent, however, because there is the problem of recognizing the insurgents, which is always complicated. The FDR, a Salvadoran left-wing political movement that in the past supported armed movements, now has moved away from the FMLN and is participating in the elections. Members of this group, which in a way has ceased supporting armed movements, had talked to me about the possibility of returning to their country. I conveyed these ideas to the Salvadoran Government. The government considered these ideas positive and provided conditions for this group to participate in politics. Therefore, I helped a little bit to turn this possibility into reality. Guatemala has always been willing to participate in anything that implies dialogue or good relations. If necessary, we could serve as mediators, but always with the consent of the respective governments.

As for the guerrillas' proposal, I think there is a positive and a negative aspect to it. The positive aspect is acknowledging that elections are a way to solve problems. This is a very important step because one way or another, this is an indication that the guerrillas are beginning to realize that at this time, violence in Central America is an obstacle to development. I have said this repeatedly. I told this to journalists in Caracas and here in Guatemala. During the 1960's, to be a revolutionary was to take up arms. In the 1980's.... [changes thought] In the 1990's, to be a revolutionary is to sit down and hold a dialogue. To be a revolutionary is to be a conservative, just like everyone else. [Cerezo laughs] Violence is a thing of the past. It is difficult for the Salvadoran Government to agree to violate the Constitution by postponing the elections. If proposals are being made in which the guerrillas again want to be the judge and say what a legitimate government should do, then we are going backward, which is unacceptable. However, as we begin to see ways of overcoming problems, the future looks bright. I think a solution will be reached.

[Garcia] Your government has recognized the new Paraguayan Government. What is your opinion on this coup?

[Cerezo] We believe there are great possibilities for a democratic opening in Paraguay. We are satisfied by the ouster of a longtime dictator. I believe it is time for all presidents who have been ruling for over 30 years to retire—[words indistinct] whether they are from the left or right wing—and give an opportunity to their people. The new Paraguayan president has offered to hold elections, which I think is good. We trust him and hope elections will be held.

As for relations with Paraguay, we had relations with the old regime, and of course we will improve them now.

[Garcia] Mr President, you are president during a transitional period in Guatemala. After so many military governments, you won the elections, and now you are causing controversies. I think—although I am not an expert in politics—there is a very positive controversy here. You do not have problems with the Armed Forces. Are the Armed Forces aware of their role as established under the Constitution?

[Cerezo] I honestly believe so. The change that took place in the Guatemalan Armed Forces—becoming aware of their role—is surprising. To a large extent, the Armed Forces, together with the Guatemalan people, began the democratization process. The Armed Forces are very aware that their role is to support a constitutional process and that instead of being members of a political party, the military is a component of the democratic system. I have had no problems with the Armed Forces. Moreover, many of the reforms we have made and many of the really drastic decisions we have made to stabilize the economy have been supported by the Armed Forces. We would have had some difficulties or instability without the Armed Forces' support. I have the Armed Forces' support, and I am certain that I and my democratically elected successors will continue to have the Armed Forces' support.

[Garcia] You do not have a magic wand of [words indistinct], but you managed to reduce guerrilla activity throughout the country. We have noticed that since you took power, the guerrillas' fighting spirit has been completely dampened.

[Cerezo] There is an old saying by Mao, who said people are to guerrillas as water is to fish. Now that we have a democratic process, the guerrillas have gradually lost support. Moreover, people are not fools; people are intelligent. People think: If I can achieve something with peace, why should I join violence? The people thus ignore the guerrillas. There will always be a small group of people who will always want to carry out some actions and who will continue thinking as they did in the past. In addition to all this, the Guatemalan Army is very efficient. I honestly think we have a very professional and honest Army that has fulfilled its historic duty.

When I was sworn as president of the Republic, I said the democratic process would succeed because it was an alliance of professionals, an alliance of private sector professionals willing to be real professionals—not like the feudal lords who became wealthy by exploiting others, but professionals who succeed because they are

efficient—and a military establishment that knows how to provide security and stability with no political [words indistinct], because that is not their problem. A defense minister has to be involved in politics, and the Army is part of the political process because it sustains those in power. However, the Army makes no political decisions. The duty of the Army is to provide security. We politicians should be true politicians and stay out of the business realm. [Cerezo laughs] Therefore, such an alliance of professionals, politicians, businessmen, and soldiers makes the democratic process function. I believe this is what is happening in Guatemala.

[Garcia] To conclude this interview, Mr President, and because I do not want to overstay my welcome—I know you have many commitments—I would like to ask the following: In view of your personal charisma in Central America, what is your message, as Guatemalan President, for the Honduran people?

[Cerezo] I believe the Honduran people have proven that they support democracy. They have also exhibited their great strength in their search for peace. My message is that they should be optimistic and display confidence in Honduran political leaders who are committed to the Central American initiative, which proposes peace and dialogue instead of war. They should also strengthen the democratic process because democracy is a system with a great advantage. It may have defects but those defects can be corrected with the people's participation. Therefore, Hondurans should be optimistic and participate in the democratic process. That would be my message for all Hondurans, whom I admire very much.

Opposition Blocks Cerezo's Visit to Japan

PA2102121489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2131 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Feb (DPA)—A maneuver at the Guatemalan Congress today will prevent President Vinicio Cerezo from traveling to Japan tomorrow to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito on Friday, 24 February. Opposition deputies did not attend the congressional session; thus, Cerezo did not receive the special permission that can be granted at a single session of Congress if there are enough votes.

A simple majority composed of the governing party deputies (51 in a 100-member chamber) voted to grant permission at this first session, but two more sessions are needed in the next 2 days so permission can be granted at the end of the third session. This is what the law establishes. By the time the third session ends, President Cerezo will not have time to make it to the funeral, considering that Japan is 15 hours ahead of Guatemala.

This is the first time this kind of parliamentary incident has taken place in many years. There is no record of a Guatemalan Congress ever preventing a president from making a trip. Congress has usually been dominated by deputies of the governing party.

Opposition deputies and sectors opposed to the government have been stating their disagreement with what they say are constant trips by President Cerezo. Cerezo has said they are working trips that break the "isolation" Guatemala has suffered in recent years. The president has argued that the investment is minimal considering the donations and loans Guatemala secures during those trips.

Regarding the trip to Japan, newspapers have criticized it. PRENSA LIBRE has characterized it as unnecessary and as proof that the president "does not know history," in reference to the role played by Emperor Hirohito in World War II.

President Cerezo has already apparently made commitments for a visit to the United States on his return from Japan, and it is possible that once he receives permission to travel on Wednesday he will go to North America, according to government sources.

Nicaragua

Ortega Holds News Conference; Discusses Summit

PA1602043489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0239 GMT 16 Feb 89

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega on 15 February; place not given—live]

[Text] [Ortega] Good evening, fellow Nicaraguans. Yesterday in El Salvador, we signed an agreement of historic significance, because it inaugurates a new stage in the process of Central American peace and democracy. The first stage was the signing of the Esquipulas agreements in August 1987, and the final stage was the Alajuela meeting. From Alajuela to the El Salvador meeting, the process lost momentum, weakened. Now, in El Salvador, it has made new strides.

The Nicaraguan Government's attitude has been the determining factor in this development. This attitude is intimately shared by the Nicaraguan people. I told the Central American presidents during meetings that lasted several hours that Nicaragua would not have made the efforts it has been making since the beginning of the year—both in economic and political terms—if the United States had continued along the same lines and held the same positions as President Reagan's administration.

This new historic situation the Nicaraguan people are experiencing, after the defeat of President Reagan's aggressive policy, gives us the opportunity of working to convert into reality what has been the FSLN's historical commitment. The FSLN made this commitment clear in the October 1977 offensive. Afterward, in the final offensive, that commitment took shape in the government that emerged following the triumph of the revolution.

The U.S. aggression, which has lasted 8 years, has affected the lives and economic situation of many Nicaraguans, and it has affected the government's struggle to normalize the mixed economy system and to achieve political pluralism. This became difficult to do; it became difficult to provide stability when we were faced with a foreign aggression that came from, was determined by, and was organized and led by the biggest economic and military power in the world—the United States.

The United States went so far as to threaten to have its troops invade Nicaragua. In Caracas, however, I spoke with President Carlos Andres Perez and with other Latin American, European, and Central American leaders, including Presidents Azcona, Cerezo, and Arias. I told them that when Nicaragua found itself in this new situation, it was already striving for economic cooperation to strengthen the mixed economy that the government had set out to achieve since the revolution's victory. Moreover, that goal was set even before the revolution's victory. We were also seeking political cooperation for which conditions had to be created. This statement aroused the interest and support of the Latin American and European leaders who were present.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez told me that he is truly impressed with the Nicaraguan people's resistance. He said he never imagined that the Nicaraguan people could withstand an aggression of the magnitude of the U.S. aggression for 8 years. Every time I spoke with Gonzalez—we met on several occasions—he would tell me how he had feared that the Nicaraguan people could not resist such an aggression, that the Nicaraguan's resistance had been truly extraordinary.

That is the strength that Nicaragua relied on at the meeting in El Salvador. That is where the strength that I took as your representative, Nicaraguan brothers, to the El Salvador meeting lies. It lies in all the Nicaraguans' ability to resist U.S. aggression, to face economic problems, to defeat U.S. aggression; all this is to achieve peace. Peace with dignity is one of the permanent goals all Nicaraguans have pursued.

It is under these conditions that we spoke—we spoke frankly, the way the Central American presidents speak, emphasizing—and not only I but all the Central American presidents emphasizing—that the Nicaraguan revolution made Central America known to the world. Had there not been a Nicaraguan revolution, no one would have taken an interest in Central America, no one would be speaking about the region, no one would know about the Central American countries.

The Nicaraguan revolution also created political openings in Central America, where, for many long years, there had been (?military) governments. Statements such as these have been made during the frank talks the Central American presidents have been holding all these years. The Central American presidents also spoke of the way in which Nicaragua has confronted the United States and of the U.S. (?problem) with Nicaragua. They said this is where the Nicaraguans must make the greatest effort to help themselves and the rest of Central America in order to secure peace in the region. But what can we do? The actions of other Central American countries are not singled out the way Nicaragua's actions are.

I told the Central American presidents that progress had been made after the 7 August 1987 meeting in Guatemala—that historical meeting where the Esquipulas agreements were created—which no one could deny [word indistinct]. Central America achieved a certain independence which Central American presidents must strive to strengthen.

There was a lengthy discussion, which became heated at 1300. The meeting had been expected to end at 1100, but here we were, still in session at 1300. We were forced to work as an editing committee to draft this document. One of the points on the agenda dealt with national reconciliation committees. It was said that these committees should play a special role and that if these committees and the governments failed to reach an agreement, the matter should be turned over to the OAS secretary general.

Although this point had to do with reconciliation in Nicaragua and we would have to consider it from a constitutional viewpoint, it did not affect reconciliation from the political viewpoint. I was not at all concerned that aspects dealing with how the electoral process is handled had to be verified by international observers. Of course, this included all of the Central American governments. But some of these governments objected that in this way the reconciliation committees would be given functions foreign to them and that are not even embodied in the original Esquipulas document. It was said these functions, if given to the reconciliation committees, would have violated constitutional principles in the Central American countries.

I told them this was really said with Nicaragua in mind, and that if correct electoral processes are implemented and pure elections are held throughout Central America, no Central American government should be entrusted with the international supervision and verification process. I said Nicaragua is willing to submit its electoral mechanisms to international supervision and verification provided all the other Central American governments do likewise. But this statement was not welcomed because, as it was pointed out, it violated constitutional principles.

I would like to point out our political willingness, which rests on the Nicaraguan revolution's political strength and our government's roots in the working people, peasants, and every honest and patriotic Nicaraguan.

I will try to sum up the Central American presidents' joint statement, which has 14 points. Point 1 deals with our willingness to have a national democratization and reconciliation process within the framework of Esquipulas II. You are already familiar with this document because the entire statement was published in newspapers and aired on radio and television networks. I will not read it again. This point has something different: It has to do with the government's willingness to hold the elections ahead of schedule on 25 February 1990. Some local political parties have said the FMLN has lost power and the people's support. We have no better reason than this to participate in the 25 February elections. We will see who is more powerful.

Let us see who the people will vote for; let us see if the people will vote for the FSLN or for other parties. If anyone has any qualms about this, it is because he is not interested in peace or in strengthening democracy in Nicaragua.

I presented this proposal in El Salvador. However, I had already met with opposition political party leaders and expressed these ideas to them prior to my trip to El Salvador. I thus hoped it would be clear that the Nicaraguan Government had made this decision willingly and not as a result of pressure exerted upon us by the Central American leaders in El Salvador, as was later speculated. The Nicaraguan Government had already made this decision.

There is a second point that has to do with what I proposed to President Azcona while in Venezuela. Both President Carlos Andres Perez and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez were aware of this proposal. The five points in this proposal are crucial for the Nicaraguan people. No one—no sane person—would want further bloodshed in Nicaragua. Only an insane person would be capable of such a thing. We must stop the war; we must bury the war.

This leads to a point in the proposal that reads as follows: In accordance with the Nicaraguan president's proposal and the Honduran president's initiative, the Central American presidents have pledged to draft, within 90 days, a joint plan to voluntarily demobilize, repatriate, or relocate members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and their relatives to Nicaragua or third countries. To this end, they will seek the technical advice of United Nations experts.

In addition, the proposal reads: Because of the Honduran Government's resolve to help create the proper conditions for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of the Nicaraguans in Honduras who are either directly or indirectly involved in war actions, Nicaragua has decided to release prisoners according to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission's classification. I added this point to further the Honduran Government's initiative, which was guaranteed, welcomed, and supported by all Central American presidents.

The third point deals with verification of security matters. This was recently discussed at the United Nations between the UN secretary general and the Central American foreign ministers.

The fourth point defines, or rather reiterates, the scope of the national verification commissions' functions, because most of the Central American presidents are concerned about the role of the national reconciliation commissions. The Central American presidents were afraid the commissions would take over functions and go too far, thus exceeding the constitutional framework of each Central American country. We were not deeply concerned in this sense. However, other Central American presidents were concerned about this, which caused this paragraph—which was more extensive and which concluded with this procedure of passing on to the OAS Secretary General points that are not resolved—to be reduced to the following: The presidents reaffirmed the power of the national reconciliation commissions to continue developing the specific functions of verification at the areas established in the Guatemala procedure and the Alajuela declaration. The national reconciliation commissions should periodically report the result of their work to the executive commission.

At this point it was clear to all, that the function of the national reconciliation commissions is to receive the reports on specific subjects and then pass these reports on to the executive commission composed of the foreign ministers. Upon receiving the reports, the foreign ministers pass them on to the foreign ministers meetings.

There is a fifth point, the text of which reads as follows: The Central American presidents firmly reiterated the request contained in paragraph five of the Esquipulas II agreement. Paragraph five of the Esquipulas II agreement reads as follows: The governments of the five Central American states will request that the governments in the region and outside the region—who in an open or concealed manner supply military, logistical, and financial assistance, as well as propaganda, troops, weapons, ammunition, or equipment to irregular groups—put an end to that assistance, as an indispensalbe means of achieving stable and lasting peace in the region. This does not include assistance for repatriation, or in its place relocation and assistance required by those persons who belong to the groups or forces in order to return to normal activities. Likewise, the irregular forces and the insurgent groups throughout Central America will be asked to abstain from receiving such assistance, for the sake of a true Latin American spirit. That is what paragraph five of the Esquipulas agreement says.

Point five reads: The Central American presidents reiterated firmly the request contained in paragraph five of the Esquipulas II agreement so that the governments in the region and outside the region that supply assistance to the irregular forces or rebel movements in the area in an open or concealed manner, immediately put an end to that assistance, with the exception of the humanitarian aid that contributes to the goals of this document.

Then, there is point six where the presidents urge all sectors, and particularly the rebel movements and irregular forces active in the area, to rejoin the constitutional political processes of each country. To this effect, they call on all Salvadoran groups to participate in the forthcoming elections. When we discussed that point, we agreed it was advisable to make a call to that effect in Nicaragua, and we added a small paragraph in the first point, which reads: The Nicaraguan Government will form the Surpreme Electoral Council with the participation of representatives from each political party of the opposition and [words indistinct], of the electoral process. To that effect, the presidents call on the Nicaraguan political parties to participate in the electoral process.

We then move on to point seven concerning the Central American Parliament. The Secretariat is waiting for the approval of Costa Rica. President Arias is working for Costa Rica's approval of the Central American Parliament. It has already been approved by all of the other countries. This is a point that has to do with the economic situation. It is a very extensive point because, obviously, the crisis extends throughout Central America. I remember that at a certain moment during the meeting, someone wanted to emphasize the crisis in Nicaragua. We said: The crisis is widespread. Everyone has a very serious economic problem. We all need international aid. We all need investments. If we do not make any progress in these agreements, then our Central American economies will sink. This is a regional problem. The Costa Rican economy seems to be the most stable in Central America, even though Costa Rica has had to make adjustments, as President Arias explained. However, in Costa Rica [words indistinct] are less than in Nicaragua, for example.

We then talked about a ninth [number as received] point, in which the presidents committed themselves to search for directly negotiated solutions to the conflicts that have risen from the Central American crisis. In other words, prior to resorting to international organizations, we must discuss the problem among ourselves.

The 10th point has to do with the creation of a Central American commission for environment and development as a regional mechanism of cooperation for the [words indistinct] use of the natural resources of the area. This has to do with the struggle against contamination and seeks to reestablish the ecological balance.

In point 11 we talked about the international conference on Central American refugees, which deals with the problems of refugees and the homeless.

Point 12 was presented by Nicaragua and it has to do with the drug trafficking problem. We were able to reach a regional agreement on the eradication of illegal drug trafficking.

In point 13 we talked about the governments' decision to support an initiative aimed at holding a convention on children's rights sponsored by the United Nations. President Azcona brought this point up.

As for point 14, we agreed to set a date for a future meeting in Honduras. The next presidents' meeting will be held in Honduras.

Finally, we thanked the Salvadoran people, government, and president for their hospitality during this meeting. The five Central American presidents signed the agreement. It truly is a historic agreement.

This will allow Nicaraguans to continue working toward an economic and political agreement. We will begin taking very specific actions next week. We had been making progress in the economic field, but we must continue working to reach an economic agreement. We have identified a series of problems. We have consulted with workers, who support the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. We consulted with producers and businessmen—both supporters and opponents of the revolution.

We will consult with labor union leaders who belong to opposition parties, and we will continue carrying out actions in the political arena to work toward compliance with this agreement. Nicaragua, as you all know, supplied its own initiatives in forming this agreement.

We believe we have taken a great step toward peace. Better conditions exist now, despite the great economic problems we are facing to achieve the strengthening of the mixed-economy system. It is the responsibility of all Nicaraguans, regardless of their political viewpoints, to make progress in this direction. We spoke about this point at the presidents' meeting when we were discussing the issue of ideology. I told them, it is not a matter of becoming Social Christians [as heard]. There were two Christian Democratic presidents, President Duarte and Vinicio Cerezo. I told them, it is not a matter of being liberals—President Azcona is a liberal. It is not a matter of being a liberationist—President Arias is from the National Liberation Party. It is not a matter of being a Marxist-Leninist. We must act pragmatically around political elements. We must overcome the ideological barriers. It is a matter of making progress toward integration. No one has to give up his ideology. No one has to give up his philosophical viewpoints. We all have to contribute to a political plan of action on which we all can agree.

I wish to point out that these meetings have always progressed very slowly, but I would say that within a frank, respectful, and very positive atmosphere. I am satisfied with the results. The Central Americans are very satisfied and hopeful, because everyone at the summit agreed that all countries must comply and that all countries have not complied with certain points.

Some have complied a little more than others and some a little less. There is a commission dealing with this. In other words, we are no longer being fooled. We have been fooled in the past. At their meetings, the four [as heard] heads of state are no longer so naive as to say that we want a perfect democracy, because we all agree that each regime and system must deal with certain limitations and that we must move forward. We have been able to communicate frankly, which shows a spirit of independence, a Latin American position.

[Words indistinct] I contacted President Carlos Andres Perez. I also contacted him today, because I believe that he has played a very positive role in all this. I sent him a message during the (?early stages) of the meeting and told him that the presidents had managed to make progress; that as a Latin American leader and member of the Group of Eight he could convey to that group [words indistinct] at the summit in El Salvador.

Thus, Nicaraguan brothers, I believe that in El Salvador I defended the right to peace, something to which all Nicaraguans are entitled. We have taken significant strides toward reaching that goal. However, we must continue working with great vigor and strength to achieve it. I will now answer questions from reporters.

[Moderator] This appearance before the Nicaraguan people by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra from the studios of Sistema Sandinista Television Network, which is also being transmitted by the Voice of Nicaragua, Radio Sandino, and other local stations, is attended by comrade directors and representatives of the local media, who will ask questions that we believe will reflect the feelings of different segments of Nicaraguan society. A representative of the Foreign Press Correspondents Association was also invited. Let us begin with the questions. Joaquin Absalon Pastora of This Moment newscast of Radio Mundial will ask the first question. Comrades, please pass him the microphone. Because of time constraints, we ask that each reporter ask only one question.

[Pastora] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution and president of the Republic of Nicaragua, I am Joaquin Absalon Pastora, director of the This Moment newscast. We would like to receive answers to laymen's questions during this session. Only a day after the historic decisions made yesterday by the five Central American presidents—and I do not believe it is premature to say this—there are already assumptions, presumptions, and conjecture regarding the presidential elections.

Laymen are asking who will be—in the upcoming elections, which have already created a certain atmosphere in the country—the FSLN candidate. It is not premature to talk about this since a minister of state has already proclaimed the candidacy of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra through the local media.

We have heard no comment from the president of the Republic expressing approval or disapproval. We would like him to discuss what his position would be if he were offered the presidential nomination. Would he accept this candidacy or would he want someone else in the government to occupy this high position? Or now that amendments to the Electoral Law have been brought up, would he, in his capacity as president of the Republic, ask or agree to the possibility of eliminating the possibility of reelection, which is currently not mentioned in proposed electoral amendments, which are so important, because only the amendments can open the doors for an effective democratization of Nicaragua. Commander Ortega, what is your sincere personal opinion?

[Ortega] As to who the FSLN candidate would be, the FSLN alone will (?decide). As for a democratic opening in Nicaragua, that matter cannot be based on amendments to the Constitution, for that would be undemocratic. We would be denying the 1984 popular elections. All the parties that wanted to participate did so. No party was denied the right to participate. Those who did not want to participate did not. So the people voted. Hundreds of observers came from many places. Those elections constituted an experience. Then, the National Assembly drafted the Constitution. We cannot tear up the Constitution the next day; that would mean tearing up Nicaraguan votes. On that historic 4 November 1984, Nicaraguans voted democratically and freely for the first time and like never before in our country's history.

For the first time in Nicaragua, seven political parties participated in the elections. These parties represented all sorts of political and ideological stances. The elections from that moment ceased to be the monopoly of the liberal and conservative oligarchy. Democracy became a reality in Nicaragua. Therefore, if there are political forces that feel they have the support of the Nicaraguan people, they should prepare for the elections and show they have this support. If they win the elections, they will have the opportunity to enact all the amendments they want. But this must come as a result of the people's vote. I repeat: I am sure the Nicaraguan people have identified with the FSLN program. It is a clear and open program that does not include false promises. The people have voted and will continue to vote for the FSLN.

[Moderator] Here is EL NUEVO DIARIO editor Javier Chamorro.

[Chamorro] Mr President, point two of the declaration signed in El Salvador clearly mentions the demobilization, disarmament, and end of the counterrevolution. It

also mentions the contras' voluntary relocation. However, the contra leaders said the relinquishing of weapons must also be voluntary. What can you say on this matter?

[Ortega] We must first keep in mind that the contras' occupation of Honduran territory creates problems for the Honduran people; it creates problems for Honduras' historic, economic, social, and productive programs; and it creates problems for the Honduran Government and Armed Forces.

This is an illegal occupation, more so because these people are armed. As for voluntary relocation or repatriation, these people cannot be forced to come to Nicaragua. However, they must choose between coming to Nicaragua, staying in Honduras—those whom Honduras can handle—going to the United States—which should welcome most of those who do not wish to return to Nicaragua since they want to continue to support U.S. policy—and leaving for other countries that are willing to accept them.

[Moderator] Comrade Roberto Gonzalez of the Voice of Nicaragua is next.

[Gonzalez] Mr President, I believe that the topic of elections is now being discussed openly and clearly. In the past elections, the government subsidized all propaganda expenditures of the political parties. Will the political parties this time be allowed to spend dollars or other money that they might receive from abroad? Besides these dollars and other money from abroad, several billion will have to be spent on publicity. The political campaigns of each party will require money. We know that the little money-printing machine has been shut off since the government is implementing an economic plan. What will happen?

[Ortega] There is no doubt that we have very serious economic problems here in Nicaragua. However, this must not undermine our determinition to proceed with the elections. As for the financial support that the political parties can receive, the truth is that regardless of what our laws stipulate, including a ban against receiving money from the U.S. Government as long as it supports the contras, laws have been violated. There are ways to violate them.

We know that this financing is channeled through various mechanisms to some parties whose policies are in line with U.S. Government interests. Therefore, we must define this very well to ensure that instead of eliminating access that several parties might have to this money, including the FSLN, that we have access within the framework of the law.

[Moderator] Reporter (William Wilfri) of La Primerisima Radio is next.

[(Wilfri)] Comrade President, in the Esquipulas II accords, there are explicit references to a specific plan for Nicaragua. Why are there no specific references to other countries, such as Honduras, regarding the contra situation, or specific references to the internal political situation, for example, in El Salvador and Guatemala. The internal situation in El Salvador and Guatemala were discussed. Why are there no direct references to these situations?

[Ortega] There was a discussion at the meeting in this regard, mainly regarding the Salvadoran guerrillas' situation. President Duarte spoke about the FMLN proposal. Other Central American governments said that they did not believe that it was very positive to (?discuss) this proposal during the meeting. It deserves a more profound discussion.

However, the fact that there has been no specific reference to the Salvadoran problem obviously does not eliminate the existing problem. In our meeting with President Duarte, he told us that the political parties are meeting to discuss the FMLN proposal. Specifically, the parties should have met on 13 and 14 February. Yesterday afternoon I asked [words indistinct] and said that the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, has not been attending these meetings. This shows ARENA's attitude of wanting to (?influence) any agreement that might be reached.

It was also reported that the Armed Forces' chief publicly stated that if President Duarte stays 1 day longer than he is supposed to as president—to allow that the FMLN proposal be implemented—the Armed Forces will immediately take over the government. In other words, they have openly threatened to carry out a coup in El Salvador. The Salvadoran situation is very complicated. We called for efforts to be made to find a negotiated solution. This was the Central American presidents' general request regarding problems that affect other Central American countries.

[Moderator] The following question is for Nueva Nicaragua Agency Director Roberto Garcia.

[Garcia] My question is the following: Was there any sort of agreement to make efforts to get the U.S. Government to respect the agreements made at this meeting?

[Ortega] The most important thing is that this document is a good document. This is the best message we can send to the U.S. Government without directly addressing them. We did not decide to send the document directly to them. The route we have...[changes thought] That is, through the sovereign decision of the Central American governments and with the support of Latin America and Europe—the EEC is also very concerned with the situation and the Spanish prime minister sent a message of

support to the meeting... [changes thought] These elements of, let us say, international pressure [words indistinct] the new U.S. Congress will surely set the conditions for the U.S. Government to allow the Central American governments to make their decisions and give their agreements due respect. The U.S. Government should not come up with policies that torpedo, hinder, and sabotage these agreements.

[Moderator] The next question is for LA PRENSA newspaper, Joaquin Mejia.

[Mejia] Mr President, there is a certain amount of skepticism about some of the statements you have just made. There are approximately 14 parties that have been asking that 17 constitutional reforms be discussed. You have just said that this subject cannot be broached, despite the fact that the Constitution itself allows reforms; therefore, the reform proposal is not antidemocratic.

We are also concerned about amnesty. The Esquipulas agreement signed in Guatemala stated that total amnesty was to be granted and not just certain prisoners released. This was also agreed in Alajuela. However, in El Salvador a clause was added in accordance with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission's classification that only included the subject of the former Somozist guards. It does not make sense to release only these men and not include the thousands of supposed contra collaborators who, perhaps, are in prison because they sold an old horse or a gallon of curdled milk to the contras when the contras, who actually fought, are being offered land and freedom in Nicaragua.

[Ortega] In regard to the constitutional reforms, the law clearly states that two government terms must elapse before reforms to the Constitution can be proposed. Therefore, we are first defending the law and second the Constituion. I am not stating that the Constitution cannot be reformed. The Constitution can be reformed, but only in accordance with the law and not at the whim of somebody in Nicaragua. The law says that two terms have to elapse and after that period anybody can propose consitutional reforms.

Regarding amnesty, we have to take into account that a negotiation process took place that went beyond the Esquipulas agreement. This subject was discussed by the Central American presidents in El Salvador.

And so we said: Let us be realistic. We continue to defend the Esquipulas agreement. So what happened? At the Sapoa meeting, following Esquipulas, I told them that Nicaragua violated, in a positive sense, the Esquipulas agreement. On the matter of talks, the Esquipulas agreement clearly stated they can only take place with civilian groups. It said: Steps toward national reconciliation must be urgently taken in cases where there are deep divisions within society so the people can participate with full guarantees in [words indistinct] in a democratic political process based on justice, liberty, and democracy. Toward that goal, mechanisms must be established in accordance to the law that will permit talks with opposition groups. Toward that goal, all the government will begin the talks with all unarmed groups, the internal political opposition, and those who have accepted amnesty.

We then took this aspect as a [words indistinct] in Sapoa, because this would not be a violation of the Esquipulas agreement. We were in fact pressuring other Central American governments to hold talks with revolutionary movements. We set a precedent by holding talks with an armed group while the Esquipulas agreement does not allow talks with armed groups. Nicaragua was the first to positively react to Esquipulas when it began to hold talks with the contras. Later it signed an agreement. [passage indistinct]

The second action taken regarding the Esquipulas agreement—actually the most serious action—was the modifications made to it. I reminded the Central American presidents during the meeting in El Salvador that we blinded, so to speak, the peace plan. It had a heart, legs, arms—everything, even eyes—and we gouged out its eyes. Why? Because in its original form, as signed by the five Central American presidents in Guatemala, point 10 of the peace plan included the creation of an international commission. It reads: An International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS]—An international verification and follow-up commission will be set up comprising the UN and OAS secretaries general, or their representatives, and the foreign ministers of Central America and the Contadora and Support Groups. The CIVS will be in charge of verifying and following up on compliance with the commitments contained in this document.

So, the CIVS was entrusted with the mission of overseeing, watching, and verifying compliance with Esquipulas and of submitting a report. When the CIVS submitted a report at the Alajuela meeting in January 1988—a report that was discussed in December 1987—we gouged out the eyes of the Esquipulas peace plan. The CIVS was finished; the peace plan was left without eyes. I mean we had no mechanism for verification. And so, I [words indistinct]. Gentlemen, the peace plan cannot continue. At Alajuela I said: We are going nowhere. Nicaragua said—that was my position at that meeting—we cannot do away with the verification mechanism; we created it and now we are going to eliminate it at this meeting; we have started to violate the Esquipulas I agreement. However, they, two Central American presidents in particular, insisted on gouging out Esquipulas' eyes. They understood, in a pragmatic matter, that if they were not flexible at that time, the peace plan would be destroyed. These presidents had problems or objections about accepting CIVS, which they had accepted without realizing its scope.

So I said, fine, [words indistinct], but let it be clear that not everybody agreed, and this was stated in the Alajuela document that discussed the CIVS. Referring to the CIVS, the Alajuela document clearly stated: The Central American presidents recognize the commission's great dedication, and they thank it for its effort to help in the compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement. This was referring to the CIVS. Then the Alajuela document added: The presidents have received the CIVS report that was drafted in accordance with point 11 [as heard] of the Esquipulas agreement, with the reservations that some of the presidents have noted. I would like to know what [words indistinct]. I never had any reservation about the report; I agreed with it.

The report released by the commission states that human rights are violated in all Central American countries, although it states they are violated in some countries more than others. It states that more democracy is needed in all Central American countries, although it states some countries need it more than others. I am concerned about this report because it is an objective report. Others are not concerned about it. [Words indistinct] to contribute to the survival of the peace plan, we had no other choice but to accept this, otherwise if we insisted on our positions, if we held on to our positions, and if we became intransigent, there would be no peace plan. We would not have signed the agreements in August 1987, and we would not have continued the talks held in Alajuela in January. This explains the agreement about the (?prisoners), because the prisoners issue is linked to the Sapoa talks. In Sapoa we reached an agreement in which we came up with a schedule for the release of prisoners and the disarming of the contras. Later, the contras decided not to continue participating in the talks.

You may recall that the contras, some political parties here, and some news media here were demanding every day that talks be held between the government and the contras—when will the government talk to the contras, when will the government talk to the contras [Ortega repeats himself], they said. So we said, let us talk to the contras. We held our first talks in the Dominican Republic. Then they wanted the talks to be held in Central America. So, we held our talks in Costa Rica and then in Guatemala. Then they decided they did not want the talks to be held in Costa Rica and Guatemala; they wanted the talks to be held in Nicaragua. So we went to Sapoa, near the border with Costa Rica. They said: No, the talks should be held in Managua. Remember, the contras, the opposition parties, LA PRENSA, and all the opposition media said this. So we held the talks in Managua, but later they fled from Managua. So what could we do?

They were the ones who discontinued the talks after insisting so much that they wanted to come to Managua. They were even allowed to visit their relatives; they were allowed to meet with friends; and they were allowed to visit LA PRENSA, which received the contras as heroes even though they had been killing people and children. The Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board also received the contras as heroes. They were received as triumphant returning heroes. The members of the coordinating board received the contras as though they were their leaders. [Words indistinct] the opposition parties that are currently in Nicaragua.

I met with some political party leaders before leaving for San Salvador. The political party leaders proved they were not [words indistinct]; they proved they were not clumsy. Instead, they proved to be intelligent and they proved they were politically rational. Why not sit down and talk? Reagan and Gorbachev sat down to talk; Iran and Iraq are now holding talks. Why are these people not holding talks here? [Words indistinct] are holding talks.

Therefore, the (?amnesty) issue has been linked to these other issues. The peace plan should not be taken as a catechism or as dogma, because if we do, the plan would disappear simply because no one has complied with it. No sir, this should not be the case. We must continue working on the peace plan so each country can make it work once they begin observing it. All countries cannot make progress at the same pace and time. Nicaragua has a better chance of making progress than other countries; this is only logical. Why? Because Nicaragua's regime has the people's support. It has the people's strength. The heroic people have been withstanding foreign aggression for 8 years. Other governments do not have that same strength. If further steps are taken in those countries, a military coup would immediately ensue. If the military find out that certain steps are being taken in some countries, they would immediately stage a coup. In addition there are armed ultrarightist groups in some countries and they carry out actions against those governments. Political maneuvering room is just beginning to open up in Central America.

The situation is very complex, and therefore we cannot insist [words indistinct] on the Esquipulas document.

[Moderator] Comrade Carlos Fernando Chamorro, director of BARRICADA, now has the floor.

[Chamorro] Commander, you mentioned some disagreements that arose in the discussion concerning verification and the unconstitutional implications of some proposals. However, after reading the document, it is unclear to me if the presidents agreed to establish, more or less, common parameters that would allow simultaneous progress in the democratization process and respect for human rights. For example, what would happen if tomorrow, one Nicaraguan opposition group were to disagree with the process to gain a better understanding, to undertake joint efforts, [to amend] the electoral law, and other changes that might take place here? On the other hand, what would happen if in El Salvador or any other country there continues to be

flagrant violations of human rights? In other words, how will verification of progress and compliance with commitments relating to democratization be carried out?

[Ortega] The introduction of this document says in the first paragraph: The Central American presidents of such and such a country meeting in El Salvador on 13 and 14 February analyzed the peace process in Central America and adopted the necessary measures for [words indistinct], which are the ones included here, with the understanding that Esquipulas and the Alajuela document have a common goal. In other words, we have agreed to call for respect for human rights and so forth.

Therefore, if the political parties say that this is a problem of the voters, it is also a problem of the political parties. The problem is with the groups or sectors the political parties claim to represent, because they are not taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in the election campaign. If they want to stay out of the campaign, that is their problem. It is not as if they are being excluded. One is excluded if one is told: No, you cannot participate, which is what happens in some Central American countries where some parties are banned from participating in the elections. For example, the Marxist-Leninist and communist parties cannot participate in the elections of any Central American country.

Thus, there is a difference between one who chooses to remain outside the political system and one who is deliberately excluded. The issue of dealing with monitoring political matters, human rights, civil rights, economic rights, and social rights is included in a point that is pending further discussion. Also pending is further development of the point dealing with [words indistinct] of the security issue. More progress has been made on that; the other issue was discussed to some extent during the Central American foreign ministers' meeting.

Several proposals were made. There was a proposal by a Central American country that decided that the best way to monitor human rights and political [words indistinct] was for each country to appoint an official and form a commission to issue a ruling. This is ridiculous because to do so would mean that we would have a group of people who would conclude that there are no human rights violations in Central America.

Each government would of course appoint people who would present the most favorable reports. Our position has been and continues to be—as this subject continues to be discussed—that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations working group on refugees and missing people should be the ones to verify these aspects and they should present periodic reports every 3 months to the Executive Commission. The Executive Commission would then present the report to the presidents' meeting. That is the point that is still pending.

[Moderator] Now, journalist (Jose Saldua), director of the Foreign Press Association, has the floor.

[(Saldua)] Mr President, when the [words indistinct] said that the results of the summit were [words indistinct] for the Nicaraguans, do you believe that the [words indistinct] contra leadership described [word indistinct] as a victory of [words indistinct], because, according to them, [words indistinct] the conclusions that you have contemplated [words indistinct]. Do you think that the contras [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] The contra movement has been and still is an instrument of Reagan administration policy—the policy of a foreign power. The contra movement, therefore, is not a force in itself. It is an artificial force that has existed because for 8 years former President Reagan conducted a certain policy toward Nicaragua. The goal of that policy was to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

Using the contra movement as an instrument was not a way to promote an agreement but to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. In other words, what Reagan wanted was to leave the Presidency on 20 January 1989, leaving the contra movement in power in Nicaragua. That, however, was not possible. The contras were defeated by the Nicaraguan people.

I recently said that the contra movement was a corpse that had to be buried. We all know that an unburied corpse can spread disease. What we are doing now, through this agreement, is burying the counterrevolutionary project, which was created by the U.S. Administration. Right now there is a trial in the United States, and Oliver North is saying former President Reagan knew many things. He is saying Reagan was aware of everything that was going on. Oliver North is now forced to tell the truth, and the truth is that former President Reagan was behind all the covert actions carried out behind the back of the U.S. Congress. This has unleashed a full-blown scandal in the United States.

What else can the contras say but what they said in El Salvador? They had to say something. They have to admit they are defeated and [words indistinct] are bad, and [words indistinct]. The [words indistinct] would be to [word indistinct]. The contras are also convinced that their policy, which is planned and implemented by the United States, has failed—that it is dead.

[Moderator] Reporter Jose Esteban Quezada, director of the Sucesos Newscast, has a question for President Ortega.

[Quezada] Commander, apparently the announcement of moving the date of the elections forward has caused some commotion. Does Daniel Ortega favor presidential reelection?

[Ortega] We must bear in mind that reelection is not a crime. In countries like the United States, which is viewed as a model by some political parties and media in this country, reelection is a reality. We saw former President Reagan rule during two presidential terms. When his second presidential term was about to conclude, former President Reagan alleged that it was antidemocratic to deny him the possibility to be reelected, because the people should have the right to reelect him if they wanted to do so. Reagan said that at the end of his last presidential term.

[Moderator] Reporter Allan Tefel, director of El Pensamiento Newscast.

[Tefel] President Ortega, I would like to ask you three brief questions. First, do you think the United States will now conduct a different policy toward Nicaragua? Bush has not really said anything to that effect. Second, you talked about national reconciliation, and the agreements reached by the Central American presidents deal with this subject too. I would like to know how you view reconciliation or what initiatives can be promoted here in view of the current polarization of forces in Nicaragua? Third and last: Most Central American presidents are organizing general elections in their countries and will not remain in power. Will the agreements you just signed still be valid when the new Central American governments come to power? Will the new governments recognize the agreements recently signed, such as the Nationalist Republican Alliance of El Salvador, and your announcement of moving the date of the elections in Nicaragua forward?

[Ortega] Regarding your first question, the fact that President Reagan, I mean President Bush has not yet defined his policy toward Nicaragua is to a certain extent an expression of what that policy is going to be like.

As for national reconciliation, I can say the Nicaraguan Government and the FSLN have political resolve. The intransigent positions that some Nicaraguan political groups have had must end. [Words indistinct] this country.

I think those groups cannot go on believing in the contra movement or hoping for a U.S. invasion. They must work for peace. In other words, those groups must not waste the great opportunity the Nicaraguan Government is offering them through the agreement that was reached in El Salvador.

As for the fact that several elections are to take place this year and next year in Central America, and that some may think elections might affect the validity of the agreements we reached, I would like to say that these are long-term commitments that will be assumed by the new Central American presidents who will emerge from the upcoming elections. The validity of our agreements is determined by a number of factors, which involves not only the Central American peoples, but also foreign aid and support. In other words, there is an interdependence involved in our agreements. I use the word interdependence because I do not want to use the word (?conditioned). There is an interdependence. The progress we can make through the peace process can also serve to obtain economic aid from the EEC and from other countries. For example, the Samford Commission presented a report and a request for aid for Central America. This will work as long as the regional peace process makes progress. The new Central American governments that will attain power in the upcoming elections will have to take all of that into account.

[Moderator] Oscar Alvarez from Radio Sandino.

[Alvarez] Commander Ortega, by moving the Nicaraguan elections to February 1990, several constitutional problems will apparently be created. If the elections are moved up, the government would be violating our Constitution, because both the president and vice president and the parliamentarians must conclude their terms to [words indistinct] in 1991. If elections are moved up, there would be a vacuum [words indistinct]. What would be the theory in moving up elections [words indistinct] candidates, [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] From a constitutional viewpoint, we would not have to amend the Constitution. We may have to amend electoral laws. What you are talking about is more of a political issue involving political resolve and understanding. We cannot hold on to certain [words indistinct]. I agree that those points will have to be studied very carefully.

[Moderator] Mr President, apparently there are no more questions. The question and answer period is over. We still have some time left.

[Ortega] No, the problem here will be that if we give another reporter the opportunity to ask another question, he would want to again [words indistinct] and [words indistinct] of great interest for the Nicaraguan people. The people also have a right to recreation, to watch television. Let the Nicaraguan people now have some fun watching soap operas or movies [words indistinct]. Thank you very much Nicaraguan brothers.

Ortega Shows 'Willingness' To 'Turn Over' Power

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0901 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Report by Andreu Claret on interview with President Daniel Ortega in Managua "this weekend"]

[Text] Managua, 20 Feb (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced his willingness "to turn over the government expeditiously to the party that wins the coming elections," in an interview granted to EFE this weekend.

Ortega said (if the Sandinists lose the elections moved up from November to February 1990) he will turn over the government to the opposition "in about 3 months, without waiting for January 1991."

After the Central American presidential "summit" was held—in which Nicaragua agreed to move the elections up—the opposition charged Ortega intended to remain in power until early 1991, even if he lost the elections.

The opposition based its charges on the Nicaraguan constitutional provision that the current legislators and the president will exercise their posts "in the period that ends on 9 and 10 January 1991, respectively."

According to Ortega, this public commitment to turn over the government will permit "fulfillment of the summit agreements without amending the Constitution," as the opposition had requested.

The president said that "if the opposition wins the elections, it can assume the government temporarily until January 1991, the date when it will assume it formally."

Asked about the Sandinists' willingness not only to turn over the government but the power as well, Ortega said that "the changes of the revolution (1979) are irreversible."

Asked about the future of the Nicaraguan regime after the "summit" agreements, which appear to begin a new phase for the country, he adamantly said that "this is not going to look like Cuba or Costa Rica."

"Personally," Ortega told EFE, "I can identify more with the model of the northern European countries—Social Democrats, uncommitted to NATO."

Ortega reiterated his decision to "fulfill" the "summit" agreements and noted that, during "the last week of February," he will take before the National Assembly "a proposal seeking to release approximately 1,700 former Somozist guardsmen from prison."

On the contrary, he said the detained "contras"—about 1,800, according to Sandinist sources—"will be released later, consistent with the implementation of the plan to dismantle them" as was agreed to during the summit.

He also said that "the political opposition parties can receive U.S. money as long as the funds are not connected to a military aid package.

Commenting on the announcement by the U.S. President to continue providing "humanitarian" aid to the "contras," Ortega cautiously said that it "would not be considered military aid as long as it is within the spirit of the summit" (repatriation or relocation of the "contras" based in Honduras).

Nicaraguan President Ortega announced his decision "to make contacts with the opposition," after holding a rally organized by the Sandinists for 21 February.

This "national dialogue," suspended since April 1988, will be designed to hold "consultations" with the opposition regarding the amendments to the press and electoral laws agreed to at the Central American summit that will be submitted to the National Assembly, "which is the one that must approve them," Ortega noted.

He added the amendments will be enacted "without changing the Constitution," as the opposition demands. However, he left the door open for "additional touches" on the Constitution in subsequent legislative sessions.

"The Constitution cannot become stagnant, and we must be open to changes in the future," Ortega stated, adding he supported changes "that strengthen real—not just superficial—democracy."

He also supported a change soon to the law on land reform to "expedite granting land to small farmers."

He announced he will offer the opposition "balanced participation" in the Supreme Electoral Council, although he declined to say if the opposition's role would be greater than it is now."

A few hours before this interview took place, the Sandinist Assembly, the ruling party's highest organization, approved a resolution hailing the principles of pluralism, mixed economy, and nonalignment.

When asked about the meaning of what some observers have termed the "return to" the Nicaraguan revolutions' "origins," Ortega replied, "We are going to do what we have always wanted to but could not because of U.S. aggression" (under the Reagan administration).

He acknowledged the EPS increased its strength to 100,000 soldiers but noted it now has 72,000 mobilized soldiers, "because we have begun reducing the number of soldiers."

He did not want to say if the "contras'" disbandment would entail a reduction in Nicaraguan military strength but said, "The ideal would be for all (Central Americans) to begin reducing our armies at the same time."

Instead, he said, "we are going to continue lowering the number of Soviet and Cuban military advisers," without specifying numbers or dates.

He was optimistic regarding what he termed "the new course" of the Bush administration and said, "Without that new development, the summit agreement would have been impossible."

"Under other circumstances," Ortega noted, "the other presidents would hardly have signed an agreement like this one" (which entails the commitment to dismantle the "contras").

He reiterated his praise for Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Spanish head of government Felipe Gonzalez, whom he described as the "two major interlocutors with the United States, who have great plans for the future and interest in Central America."

He asked the European Community to adopt "a clash [choque] policy" regarding aid to reactivate the Central American economies, particularly the Nicaraguan economy.

The Nicaraguan president admitted the "high social cost" of the recently adopted economic measures to try to curb the inflation rate (over 20,000 percent in 1988). When asked how one can win elections under those circumstances, he replied: "Telling people the truth."

FSLN To 'Respect' Results

PA1902125989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0826 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Managua [dateline as received]—The FSLN Directorate of Managua reiterated today it will faithfully abide by its commitment to hold free elections and turn over power if the opposition wins.

"Our people will elect their rulers, and we will firmly respect their will," an FSLN statement read. The announcement was made after six of the nine members—all commanders of the revolution—met with their consultation organization, the 103-member Sandinist National Assembly.

For unexplained reasons, Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega, Assembly President Carlos Nunez, and Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Minister Jaime Wheelock were not present. The statement was read by Bayarde Arce, vice coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission, in the presence of President Daniel Ortega and the other leaders.

"We vow," the document read, "to faithfully fulfill (the commitments of the Central American summit held early last week in Costa del Sol, El Salvador), and we appeal to the international community to support the agreements and safeguard their fulfillment. All the Central American governments are committed to this end," it stated.

FSLN Directorate Ratifies Summit Agreements

PA2002130789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1206 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] The FSLN hierarchy has voiced full support for the agreements signed by the five Central American presidents on 13-14 February in El Salvador. The FSLN Directorate and the Sandinist Assembly ratified the decision to comply with the treaties signed last week by President Daniel Ortega. In a six-point proclamation read by Commander Bayardo Arce, the FSLN urges the United States to respect the decision of the Central American presidents and reiterates the need to promote a broad, concerted, economic and political effort. Commander Arce read the FSLN proclamation and demanded that the international community support and watch over the compliance of the agreements signed in El Salvador by the Central American presidents to reach a solution to the region's conflict.

The FSLN Directorate and the Sandinist Assembly ratified the agreements signed by President Daniel Ortega and the other four Central American presidents in El Salvador. After analyzing the document, Commander Byardo Arce, vice coordinator of the FSLN Executive Committee, said:

[Begin recording] Workers, peasants, professionals, members of religious organizations, producers, businessmen, political parties, and the entire people of our country should strengthen this peace opportunity while working for the defense of our economy. National interests should prevail over private interests. Our activists and supporters should lead the best efforts our people demand to comply with the El Salvador agreements, for Central American peace and for the struggle against inflation and the gradual and permanent improvement of our economy. Only through the unity of the most diverse social groups, by joining our willingness and efforts, will we reach a firm and lasting peace, heal the wounds of war, deepen our democratic process, and establish the bases for the future well-being of our people.

We will again hold free and honest elections in February 1990. The world will witness as we comply with our commitments. On that date, our people will elect their rulers, and we will firmly respect their will. The FSLN and the other political parties have the responsibility to ensure our elections will serve as an example for the international community. We Sandinists will contribute to creating the best conditions for this. [end recording]

Panama

Solis Palma Leaves for Japan via Mexico

PA2002171189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1646 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Panama City, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Manuel Solis Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency, and Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter left today for Japan via Mexico to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito in Tokyo on 24 February.

A military police patrol was ambushed in Monte Verde [in East Beirut], and some were killed and wounded. All in all we lost 13, and this includes three military policemen who were killed in the Monte Verde ambush. The situation quickly exploded militarily throughout the main positions in the area, from Al-Madfun, Suq al-Gharb, and Kafr Shima until Monte Verde. All the roads were closed before the Army. As for our martyrs, three fell in the Monte Verde ambush, three others fell at the entrance to Suq al-Gharb, and Captain Fahmy 'Uwaydat fell in the Saint Therese area. Our martyrs did not fall in Beirut, at the Military Council, in Al-Ashrafiyah, or in 'Ayn al-Rummanah. They fell at their own posts.

Gen 'Awn added: It transpired that the operation involved a siege of the Army, the obstruction of its control, and the imposition of power. The interesting part was the dispatch of a group from the Lebanese Forces' elite special units. I would like to ask who made that decision, and I wonder how much money is being spent to train these units? They were sent with 10 troop carriers under the command of an insane person named Mak Mak to Al-Rabiyah to carry out another Ihdin [place where Tony Franijiyah and his family were killed in 1978] in my house. Is it for this that taxes are paid? Who made the decision? Was it the Lebanese front or the Lebanese Forces Command Council? I would like to know what kind of a crazy person would [word indistinct] responsibilities. Naturally the force made up of 10 carriers was destroyed. Five of the carriers were burned, and the remaining five are still in the barracks and are serviceable. This is the military aspect. And, of course, some skirmishes took place, but those are minor details. It was the attempt that we foiled.

Then appeals were made to declare a cease-fire and restore calm. Some of the appeals spoke of the combatants. We are not combatants. We are the legitimate armed forces defending Lebanon against the illegitimate gunmen who wanted to usurp power. This must be perfectly understood by everyone in any future dealings with us. We do not accept appeals from anyone that equate us with others.

Gen 'Awn added: At the request of some parties, in order to clarify matters for public opinion, and in an attempt to alleviate tension, we held our fire and adopted some measures today to facilitate the day-to-day affairs for the people. However, the problem still exists, and it needs a radical and final solution. It is the problem of a state that has lived with some anomalies for some time. We lived with them, but then the situation reached a peak, and this is unacceptable. The anomalies must go. For this reason, we have abolished taxes along the crossing points, and they are now open free of charge. The national fund denied this yesterday and questioned our measures, claiming that no taxes were collected at 'Ayn al-Dulb, Monte Verde, or the Museum Crossing Points. What I learned recently is that they first give receipts and then demand money, challenging anyone to talk about it. They set up roadblocks as a cover to blackmail people. Levies at the crossing points are abolished for good. The real estate office in B'abda will not levy any taxes on the public. No taxes will be levied in the areas where the Army is present or which the Army is now in control of.

In response to a question, Gen 'Awn said: Those who tried to get in touch with me said: 'Awn does not answer anybody. But we answered them all and explained to them the problem from all angles. Let them kindly tell us what they want. The problem has surfaced, and we have been subjected to an attack. We tried to answer the attack, but then appeals started coming in. Now they are meeting in Bkirki. Let us see what will happen. I am not asking for advice from anyone. I want positions and not advice or demands. The question is still open. Whether the battle will continue or not depends on the availability of a solution.

In response to another question, we hold the Lebanese Forces responsible for the bloodshed and the damage to the houses. They have to repair the houses and pay reparations to the families of the victims from the taxes they collect. He added: I am not aware of any demands on the part of the Lebanese Forces, because there is nothing to demand. We are not asking for details on a 10-meter withdrawal or advance. What is required is a choice between a state or a statelet. We are responsible for a state, and our position is clear. If they want a state within the state, let them say so, and we will give them an answer then. We will not discuss the details before a choice is made.

In response to a question on the cooperation that existed between the Army and the Lebanese Forces, Gen 'Awn said: There had been cooperation and understanding, but it was some sort of a ploy. I outlined a position in Tunis and returned with some success, and the people appreciated it. There was a positive response and understanding on the part of the Arabs. I thank all those involved in the Arab committee. Perhaps it was my position in Tunis that caused all this. However, there is a price for success.

Gen 'Awn added: Who else is stifling the freedoms in the eastern area other than the Lebanese Forces? In whose name do the Lebanese Forces register the property they buy with the people's money? Where is the budget? In whose names is the property registered and where? He added: They are a failure, and they could do anything under the cover of safeguarding society. They (?robbed) the students in the vocational school. You can ask the nuns' societies about it. They are getting paid by the cabarets, where there is plenty of licentiousness and prostitution. They also collect money from those brought from abroad to work here.

Gen 'Awn said the Lebanese state's ports represent the main source of finance for the Lebanese Forces, which is imposing heavy taxes. The monthly income of the real estate departments in B'abda, Juniyah, Ju Bayl, and

Beirut is estimated at approximately 400 million Lebanese pounds. The citizen's dealings were taxed as follows: A 2-percent tax on the building of houses, as assessed by a representative from the Lebanese Forces; a 2-percent tax on the registration of plots of land, again as assessed by their representatives; a 2-percent tax for a stamp on documents, as if it is a sales tax; a 1-percent tax on (?inheritance) deeds; a 0.1 percent tax on insurance plans; a 2,500 Lebanese pounds on (word indistinct) dealings. As for the taxes collected at the crossing points, they are as follows: 15,000 Lebanese pounds on trucks and 7,000 on pickup trucks. The factories and plants used to pay 15,000 each.

Add to this, Beirut port's monthly income estimated at approximately 100 million Lebanese pounds, as well as other import deals.

Gen 'Awn added: There are other revenues from invisible sources such as drug trafficking, which produce a lot of money. There are also other undeclared sources of revenues such as foreign aid. Furthermore, professionals, such as officers, lawyers, etc, used to pay a monthly tax of 2,000 each. The shops paid 4,000 pounds each. Gen 'Awn added that the amount of taxes imposed before 23 September 1988 represents 80 percent of the amount shown in the aforementioned list, with the exception of the real estate taxes.

Officer Killed by Gunmen

NC1702143389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] An Army officer was killed, and a number of military men were wounded at the Al-Hayik circle today. The guidance directorate of the Army command in Al-Yarzi issued the following statement: While an Army force was withdrawing from the Al-Hayik circle this afternoon, in implementation of the cease-fire agreement, some gunmen opened fire at the withdrawing force. Lieutenant Joseph Al-Bitar was killed, and other military men were wounded. The statement adds: This incident shows the extent of the gunmen's carelessness in their commitment to the cease-fire agreement.

Forces Resume Fighting

NC1702161589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1547 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Clashes have resumed in the eastern area between the Army and the Lebanese Forces. Violent clashes involving the use of artillery and tank guns are taking place in the areas of Sa'at al-'Abd and Hursh Thabit, and on the outskirts of Al-Ashrafiyah.

Ja'ja' on Meeting

NC1702184889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Feb 89

[News conference held by Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' with unidentified correspondents following an expanded Christian meeting at Bkirki on 17 February—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dr Ja'ja' has just emerged from the meeting hall in Bkirki. Dr Ja'ja', will you brief us on the meeting?

[Ja'ja'] Where are the rest of the reporters?

[Correspondent] I only want to ask you about the atmosphere of the meeting.

[Ja'ja'] I want to speak only once.

[Correspondent] I am a reporter from the Voice of Lebanon. If you want to make a statement, the people are listening to you.

[Ja'ja'] I prefer to speak to all the reporters.

[Correspodent] Was the atmosphere of the meeting positive?

[Ja'ja'] Yes, very.

[Correspondent] Can we say that the meeting is over?

[Ja'ja'] Yes, I think so. Let us speak to all journalists. Why are you taking my answers bit by bit?

[Correspondent] Dr Ja'ja' is now walking down Bkirki steps and will speak on the atmosphere of the meeting. He is now approaching the journalists.

[Ja'ja'] I will be with you for as much as you want. Please move apart. You put your questions, and I will answer all your questions slowly and calmly. There is no need to rush and do not shove each other. Let us begin.

[Correspondent] What about the atmosphere of the meeting [words indistinct]

[Ja'ja'] As regards the atmosphere of the meeting, the issues were discussed frankly and deeply. Since the issues were discussed with frankness and in depth, the results will be frank, deep, serious, and will lead to what is required.

[Correspondent] Dr Ja'ja', there are reports about demands: Demands by the Army from you and from you by the Army. However, no one has clarified these demands in public. Can you explain these demands?

[Ja'ja'] The general has a right to ask for any demands whatever. There are no problems.

[Correspondent] What are these demands?

[Ja'ja'] A committee has been set up by the conferees in Bkirki to discuss all pending problems. If there are any demands, they will be discussed patiently and calmly, and all problems can be solved. The situation does not warrant all this.

[Correspondent] Dr Ja'ja', have you read the text of the news conference held by Prime Minister 'Awn?

[Ja'ja'] Regrettably no, I did not have time.

[Correspondent] Dr Ja'ja', can the people sleep in their homes or in shelters tonight? As regards the cease-fire, will it be consolidated or will it remain fragile?

[Ja'ja'] The people are right in whatever they say. We have been working together for 15 years so that the people in this small area of Lebanon can sleep at home. Suddenly one night, they found themselves in the midst of fighting around their homes. Anyway, what counts is not the blunder, but that it must not happen again. The problems that arose are very regrettable and totally crazy. I think that they will not recur and hope that all necessary measures will be taken so that such incidents will not recur in the eastern area.

[Correspondent] Dr Ja'Ja', it has been learned that during the meeting you submitted certain practical proposals. Can we say that these proposals will be implemented soon and reassure the people?

[Ja'ja'] Let me say this: There is nothing that warrants conflict or military confrontation in the eastern area. Whatever the price, military confrontation in the eastern area must be avoided. There must not be any confrontation in this area whatever the sacrifices, efforts, negotiations, discussion, and even concessions, and good intentions. To avoid this, I will place myself at the disposal of any reconciliatory process and negotiations just to avoid any confrontation in the eastern area. Everything can be done in order to achieve this. In the eastern area, there is no difference between the Army and the Lebanese Forces. If the Army wins, the Lebanese Forces will win, and if the Army loses, the Lebanese Forces will lose. If the Lebanese Forces lose, the Army will lose. We must realize this. From this premise, anything can be done to avoid confrontation.

[Correspondent] If the required price is the withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces from Beirut and handing over their arms or withdrawing their arms from Beirut, what would your answer be?

[Ja'ja'] Let us not go into details now. The Lebanese Forces were established to defend this country. When there is no need for the Lebanese Forces, and when a comprehensive Christian decision is made, for instance, by those who met in Bkirki today that the Lebanese Forces are not needed, there will be no need for the Lebanese Forces. We will have other things to do. But since the Lebanese Forces are needed, and as long as all the conferees and Bkirki have not deemed that the Lebanese Forces should be dissolved, they will remain to play the role for which they were established.

[Correspondent] Will there be a meeting between you and Prime Minister General 'Awn soon?

[Ja'ja'] It is possible.

[Correspondent] What is the preliminary step to paving the way for a dialogue?

[Ja'ja'] To ease the situation on the ground, and this will take place. From this moment, I am calling on all Lebanese Forces from here, and I will again officially call on them to join their barracks. From now on, there is no problem if measures are taken [by the Army] or not, in return. The Lebanese Forces will remain in their barracks. They were established for a specific goal from which we will not deviate.

[Correspondent] Dr Ja'ja', the people are in shock, they cannot comprehend how, after 4 or 5 months of talk about alliance between the Army and the Lebanese Forces, this fighting could suddenly have happened. Was the talk about alliance not accurate, or what happened?

[Ja'ja'] If you want the truth, I myself do not know what happened exactly. Everyone knows that I was outside the country. Certainly what happened is crazy. As for what happened exactly, there must be some shortcoming on several levels that led to this situation. Whatever the people complain, they are right. The situation in the past 24 hours is totally unacceptable. The incidents that took place in the eastern area are unacceptable and run counter to all our ideas. What is the free, independent, and sovereign Lebanon that we are seeking, if we cannot run our affairs in a small area with no armies of occupation? In other areas of Lebanon, there are occupation armies preventing any change. We know this state of affairs. But in our area, where we exerted great efforts to keep it safe from foreign occupation, it is unacceptable for us to fail to run our affairs.

[Correspondent] Had you not taken measures previously to prevent such a situation?

[Ja'ja'] Certainly, but this was utter madness that led to this situation.

[Correspondent] Gen 'Awn today proposed a choice between a state and a statelet within a state and urged citizens and all officials to take a stand on this issue. Is there still a possibility for formulating a relationship on a clear basis between the Lebanese Forces and the Army after all that has happened?

"The government has tried to listen to the various points of view of the different productive sectors before introducing these adjustments. The government is sincerely convinced that these measures will result in an improvement of the situation, will confirm the principle of nondiscrimination among sectors, and will move our economy toward a unification of exchange rates within the period of this government's mandate.

"The government, therefore, expects the continued support and understanding of the productive sectors so that economic activities can develop in a climate of tranquillity and trust.

"The changes introduced to the foreign exchange policy establish that beginning tomorrow 20 percent of all export earnings will be exchanged at the free market rate. The government has decided not to introduce changes in the exchange rate for imports, in order to reduce uncertainties and to maintain its policies. The government has also decided to implement an 8-percent increase in public utility rates and a 7-percent devaluation of the austral during March.

"The Domestic Trade Secretariat will adjust the current system of prices under its administration. It will give automatic approval to requests for adjustments that fall below the utility rate increase—which in March will be 8 percent—but will carefully analyze those requests for adjustments that are higher than this rate."

Alfonsin, Mali's Traore Meet, Sign Accord

PY1702172989 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and his Malian counterpart Moussa Traore this morning released a joint communique stressing the importance of their meeting, which reflects the closeness and solidarity between the African and Latin American nations within the framework of South-South cooperation efforts. The two presidents met at the Olivos presidential residence. They signed a bilateral scientific and technical cooperation accord, creating a mixed commission that will design programs, projects, and other forms of cooperation.

Traore Ends Visit, Departs

PY1902211589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1552 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (TELAM)—Malian President General Moussa Traore today ended his official visit to Argentina. During his visit, Traore signed a scientific and technical cooperation accord, creating a mixed commission that will design programs, projects, and other forms of cooperation between the two governments. A joint communique was also issued.

Traore left shortly after 1030 today, traveling aboard the presidential plane "Tango-01" from the metropolitan airport to Ezeiza International Airport, where he boarded another plane bound for Mali.

At the metropolitan airport, the Malian president was seen off by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin; Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia; Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena; Susana Ruiz Cerruti, Foreign Ministry international relations secretary; Buenos Aires Mayor Facundo Suarez Lastra, and Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Ubaldo Calabresi. [passage omitted]

Menem on Plans for Falklands, British Assets

PY2002230989 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1032 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Excerpt] San Martin de los Andes, 19 Feb (DYN)—Justicialist presidential candidate Carlos Menem has charged that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo is engaged in "a de-Malvinization process," adding that he, Menem, will expropriate property owned by the British in Patagonia "if we can ascertain that such territories are owned by figureheads who report to the British Crown."

Menem reiterated that Peronism will "continue to work hard at international forums for the recovery of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands."

During a press conference at the airport in the Chubut town of Esquel, Menem said that "I don't know how long it will take," but he warned that "Argentina will not give up its right to possession and sovereignty over territories that are really Argentine."

"That is why we will intensify our efforts, even if they do not please Dr Caputo, who is engaged in a de-Malvinization process," he said, adding that "we will include in Tierra del Fuego Province the Malvinas Islands and the South Atlantic territories, which maps show as Argentine land."

Later, in a speech delivered to some 2,000 people at the corner of Alvear and Fontana Streets in the town of Esquel, in the mountainous region, Menem said that "political sovereignty should be in effect all over the country."

"I want the Malvinas to remain a major issue for the people instead of entering this de-Malvinization process," he said, adding that Argentina "will not give up its efforts to obtain sovereignty over the archipelagos."

As for the possible expropriation of British assets in Patagonia, Menem gave assurances that he will do it "if we can ascertain that such territories are owned by figureheads who report to the British Crown."

He said that the expropriation will be "sort of an answer to the aggression against us in the South Atlantic," not only "as far as the Malvinas Islands are concerned, but also because the British have extended the exclusion zone and are giving fishing licenses to all ships." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Dante Caputo Returns 18 Feb

PY2102001689 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 19 Feb 89 p 16

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo returned to our country on 18 February. He left Ezeiza airport without making any comments. Caputo toured the United States, Switzerland, Germany, and Spain with the purpose of neutralizing a campaign to discredit the Argentine Government's response to the La Tablada terrorist incident.

During his tour, Caputo met with high-ranking officials who expressed to him their governments' support for the action undertaken by the forces of order in the above incident. The officials also expressed solidarity with Argentina's democratic government. [passage omitted]

Vice President Martinez Departs for Japan, U.S.

PY1902003389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2340 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (NA)—Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez departed tonight for Japan on a regular Aerolineas Argentinas commercial flight. In Japan he will attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, visit the Japanese parliament, and meet with local businessmen. He will also visit Los Angeles to meet with U.S. businessmen.

Acosta Appointed New Federal Police Chief

PY2102001889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2157 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Summary] Interior Secretary Ricardo Gil Lavedra has announced that General Inspector Raul Acosta has been appointed Federal Police chief by the executive branch. Acosta replaces the late General Inspector Juan Angel Pirker.

Bolivia

MNR Candidate Explains Rupture With ADN

PY1702174289 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Feb 89 p 5

[Excerpt] MNR President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, who is also the MNR presidential candidate, has stated: "Our decision to break with the Pact for Democracy was adopted at the party level. The reason is very simple: How can we continue to be members of a pact if one of the partners does not fulfill its commitments with democracy?" Sanchez de Lozada thus justified his party's decision to cancel all agreements and commitments contracted between the ADN and the MNR in 1985 by the signing of their political agreement.

Sanchez de Lozada also said that the Pact for Democracy was established to defend democracy and not the restricted vote [voto calificado]. He added: "The ADN and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] have caused all this trouble so as not to allow the great Bolivian majorities to register. This is why we cannot continue to be part of this political agreement."

Asked whether the split within the Pact for Democracy will affect the government's economic policy, Sanchez de Lozada said: "I do not think it will change. We are in an election process. Therefore, it is up to the majority of Bolivians to decide who will lead their government."

Sanchez de Lozada said General Hugo Banzer Suarez will not be the future Bolivian president. He also said that he and other MNR leaders have held long meetings with Banzer during which they tried to convince him that "elections cannot be held without the participation of the majority of Bolivians. We are aware that the INE [National Institute of Statistics] establishes that 3.2 million people must by registered. However, the Electoral Court is distorting and delaying the issuance of information. It is obvious, however, that not even half of those eligible to vote will register." [passage omitted]

Banzer Views End of Pact

PY1702174989 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 11 Feb 89 p 5

[Excerpts] ADN leader General Hugo Banzer Suarez said in Oruro today that Mr Gonzalo Sanchez' decision to break the Pact for Democracy is a unilateral action for electoral objectives. He said it will have negative effects on the country, because it affects the international credibility of the government and the foundations of the democratic game.

Banzer arrived in Oruro to attend local civic ceremonies. He met with local reporters and, during an informal conversation, he disclosed details of the dissolution of the pact.

Among other topics, Banzer commented on the agenda of two meetings held "not long ago" with Gonzalo Sanchez, presidential candidate for the MNR. The ADN leader made the following important statement to Oruro reporters:

Question: We would like to know your reaction to the dissolution of the pact.

Answer: The position of ADN is outlined in a document published by the press today. We clearly stated that it is a unilateral decision, that it has political objectives, and that it is outside the foundation of the Pact for Democracy, which, as you know, seeks to consolidate the

democratic process, modernize the state, fight corruption—including drug trafficking—and several other major objectives that are important for Bolivians and for democracy.

The pact was broken on the weak pretext that ADN refused to support one of the objectives of the MNR candidate, which was to postpone the elections, as he proposed to me in a couple of meetings a few days ago.

He proposed that the elections be postponed until June; that is, 30 days before 6 August. This means a modification of the electoral timetable established by the electoral law more than 3 years ago. Consequently, this modification can cause difficulties for the National Electoral Court and for all Bolivians. We rejected this proposal because we consider it inappropriate.

The reasons given by Mr Sanchez were not consistent. He claimed that the period between the elections on 7 May and the new government taking power on 6 August will be marked by a power vacuum. This is what the law establishes, however, and this is done not only in Bolivia but all over the world. Some countries hold elections as early as 6 months before the new administration is to take power, in order to give the new government time to become acquainted with the situation in the country and to produce a natural transition.

Consequently, we rejected the proposal. Sanchez then requested an extension of the voter registration period. The reason that he gave me was that a very low number of voters had registered in the countryside. The main reason that he mentioned, however—and this is the first time I will be saying this—is that throughout its long political history, the MNR has had only two candidates, Paz Estenssoro and Siles Zuazo. Siles Zuazo is not known to the people, even within his own party. He asked me to give him time to become known to the people.

We did not reject his request immediately, and I told him that it would be analyzed by the ADN national political committee and that we would consult with the Christian Democratic Party. In the meantime, irregularities in the issuing of voters' papers were discovered in Santa Cruz. [passage ommitted]

This irregular situation, which could have developed into fraud, led us to reject the proposal to postpone the elections. It was not a whim, but actual facts, that compelled us to reject the MNR proposal to postpone the elections. [passage omitted]

Banzer Leads in Presidential Preference Poll

PY1702134889 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Feb 89 p 6

[Summary] Only 3 months away from elections, a survey was carried out among people from urban areas in La Paz and Santa Cruz. They were asked who they would vote for, should the elections be held tomorrow. The poll shows that 22 percent would vote for ADN candidate Hugo Banzer Suarez, 11 percent would vote for MNR candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, and almost 8 percent would vote for MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] candidate Jaime Paz Zamora.

Electoral Court Closes Registration Period

PY1702135089 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 7 Feb 89 p 1

[Excerpt] The National Electoral Court closed the registration of political parties at 0020 today. Simultaneously, the departmental courts throughout the nation ended the registration of voters in more than 3,700 electoral books.

A final document issued by the court states that 29 parties were registered, 19 of which updated their registration, while the other 10 were new political parties filing requests for registration and for recognition of their legal status.

The following parties updated their registration: Nationalist Democratic Action, Patriotic Convergence Axis, Bolivian Socialist Falange, Revolutionary Leftist Front, Democratic Left, Unzaguista Faction of the Movement Toward Socialism, Free Bolivia Movement, National Leftist Movement, Movement of the Revolutionary Left, Democratic Federalist Movement [Movimiento Federalista Democratico], Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, Bolivian Communist Party, Christian Democratic Party, Bolivian Democratic Party, Revolutionary Workers Party, Socialist Fatherland Party, Socialist Revolutionary Party (led by Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz), Socialist Party One, and 9th April Revolutionary Vanguard.

The following requested registration and recognition for the first time: Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement of Liberation (Walter Reynaga), Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement of Liberation (Genaro Flores), Humanist Revolutionary Action [Accion Humanistica Revolucionaria], Bolivian Communist Alternativa [Alternativa Communista Boliviana], Barrientista National Unit, Worker Peasant Coalition [Coalicion Obrero Campesina], Authentic Revolutionary Party, the Conscience of the Fatherland [Conciencia de Patria], Revolutionary Party of the National Left, National Civic Union, and Socialist Workers Party.

The document issued by the court states that the request for registration submitted by the Authentic Revolutionary Party (PRA) was not granted.

After the court meeting that issued the above document, the vice president of the electoral court, who presided over the meeting, said that the 24th of February is the deadline for making a final decision on the registration of the political parties that will participate in the elections on 7 May.

The vice president added that the registration of voters with the departmental court officers ended at midnight. The departmental courts have 10 days to submit their complete lists to the national electoral court. This means that they will have to do it before 16 February.

Based on statistical figures of the previous elections, it is estimated that the number of voters may be of 2,300,000. [passage omitted]

Registered Voters for Elections Announced

PY1702182989 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] According to a report by Electoral Court President (Pablo Cuellar Caballero), a total of 2,045,899 citizens have registered in the country.

The electoral court president said that this figure could still change because the data from some remote areas is still not available. He said, however, that [passage indistinct].

Projections on Population, Voters Released

PY1702182189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Feb 89 p 8

[Summary] The National Institute of Statistics (INE) population projections for the country are based on information from the 1950 and 1976 population and housing census, from the 1975 and 1980 national demographic surveys, and from the 1984 urban demographic survey.

According to these projections, the Bolivian population will reportedly total 7.1 million in 1989. Of this total, 38 percent lives in the capital cities and 62 percent in the rest of the departments, including rural areas and smaller towns. Some 51 percent are women and 49 percent are men.

Of the total population, 45 percent (3.2 million) would be 21 years old or older and, thus, qualified to vote.

International Reserves Total $180.7 Million

PY1702134189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Feb 89 p 8

[Summary] According to the Bolivian Central Bank, as of 31 December 1988 the Bolivian international reserves were $180.7 million. It adds that these reserves will increase considerably should Argentina pay its debt to Bolivia. This debt is estimated at $195.5 million.

The Central Bank report adds that at the end of last year, gross reserves were $404.4 million, comprised of $230.6 in currency, gold, bonds, and the Argentine debt, and the equivalent of $173.8 million in Andean pesos.

Roundup of 1988 Drug Operations Reported

PY1702125589 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Feb 89 p 6

[Summary] In 1,664 operations conducted throughout Bolivia in 1988, the Special Antinarcotics Force seized a total of 9,851 kg of narcotics. A total of 887 people were detained in those operations.

Vuelta Grande Oil Field Dedicated in Chuquisaca

PY2002215889 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1658 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Summary] La Paz, 19 Feb (AFP)—The Vuelta Grande oil field was officially dedicated on 18 February. The field, which is located in Chuquisaca, 1,100 km southeast of La Paz, can produce 4,500 barrels of condensed [condensado] oil, 250,000 kg of liquefied petroleum gas, and 90 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

Brazil

Sarney Assesses 1st Month of Economic Plan

PY1702011889 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] According to President Jose Sarney, the New Cruzado Plan is doing well. Speaking over radio and television, Sarney assessed the 1st month of the economic program to fight inflation. He expressed optimism in announcing that the government substantially reduced its deficit in January, when the public sector strictly matched expenditures and revenues, and reduced the domestic debt by redeeming government-issued bonds. The January 1989 deficit was 92 percent smaller in real terms than the January 1988 deficit. The President affirmed that workers have the right to strike, but warned against what he called "striking on impulse."

At the end of his speech, Sarney gave two pieces of good news: This year's grain harvest is estimated at a new record of 72 million tons, following 2 years of an upward production trend. Also, the government has decided to apply monetary correction to refunds from 1989 personal income tax declarations. This measure should benefit nearly 2 million taxpayers, and the refunds will be corrected upwards by the Consumer Price Index.

Sarney Departs for Hirohito Funeral 20 Feb

PY2102003289 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Excerpts] President Sarney has left for Tokyo. His departure was scheduled for 0815 this morning, but was postponed twice due to technical problems in the presidential plane. After two frustrated attempts, President Sarney finally left at 1615 for Tokyo, where he will attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. [passage omitted]

Because of problems with the presidential plane, the government was forced to lease a Varig Airline DC-10. While the plane was prepared, the president and the acting president remained at the VIP hall at the air base. They arrived at the runway at 1550.

The DC-10 took off at 1615 for Los Angeles, where the president and his delegation will spend the night. From Los Angeles they will continue to Tokyo, where they will arrive on Wednesday morning. [passage omitted]

Stroessner Moves to Guaratuba, Parana State

PY2002183589 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Former Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner today left the town of Itumbiara, where he stayed at the Furnas Company guest house for 15 days.

A Brazilian Air Force plane arrived at 0830 today at the Itumbiara airport. Soon after, Stroessner's security men started preparing for his departure from the guest house, 2 km from the airport. Fifteen minutes afterward, the gates were opened and four cars left. The former dictator and his family left in the back seat of a blue [car model indistinct].

The general showed good spirits at the airport. He was wearing a beige suit and carried a Panama hat in his hand. As he entered the airplane he thanked the public for their warm welcome in Itumbiara. At 0850 the airplane took off and headed directly to Parana State.

Gen Stroessner is now in his beach house in Guaratuba. Nobody can tell how long he will remain there. Stroessner awaits a reply from the U.S. Government to his petition of political asylum there. He had requested U.S. asylum before coming to Brazil.

Meanwhile, Colonel Gustavo Stroessner, the former dictator's son, is looking at some ranches in central Minas Gerais. According to what Gen Stroessner told several friends, however, the old general wishes to return to Paraguay as soon as the political situation is stabilized.

The deposed Paraguayan president has just arrived in the Guaratuba beach resort in Parana State. As soon as he arrived, he gave an exclusive interview to reporter Dulcinea Novaes.

[Begin recording] [Novaes] Will you remain here for a short or a long time?

[Stroessner] I will stay for some time; that is my wish.

[Novaes] Do you intend to stay in Brazil longer?

[Stroessner] I am enjoying Brazilian hospitality.

[Novaes] Is Brazilian hospitality good for you?

[Stroessner] Very good. Brazil has always been a good friend. That's all. [end recording]

Stroessner 'Intends To Return' After Election

PY1602233589 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Feb 89 p 5

[Text] Itumbiara—Former Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner is going to remain in Brazil for the next few months, but he intends to return to Paraguay immediately after the results of the 1 May elections are announced. This has been revealed by the general himself to officials who have been placed at his disposal at the Furnas Electric Company guest house, located in Itumbiara, Goias State. According to these officials, it is almost certain that Stroessner will leave this city over the weekend. The place where the former dictator intends to reside was visited on 14 February by his son, Gustavo Adolfo, and it is located someplace between Goiania and Sao Paulo. But some of the general's Brazilian friends do not rule out the possibility that he will remain in the central western region.

Official Says Stroessner Will Not Be Extradited

PY1802160789 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] The Brazilian Government will not extradite former dictator Alfredo Stroessner to Paraguay. General Stroessner continues his exile at a Furnas Company guest house in Itumbiara, Goias State.

The Foreign Ministry has learned through the press that two Paraguayan lawyers have asked Paraguayan courts to seek the extradition of Gen Stroessner, who remains at Itumbiara.

At least until yesterday, not a single member of the Paraguayan Government or courts has relayed anything to Itamarati. Foreign Ministry spokesman Ruy Nogueira has said that the international law on political asylum protects Stroessner against any such petition.

[Begin Nogueira recording] Even if Paraguayan courts petition for extradition, Gen Stroessner's status in Brazil will prevent his extradition. [end recording]

Itamarati continues to maintain that Stroessner himself will decide his final destination and that he could stay in Brazil or go to any other country.

Air Force F5 Plane Crashes, Pilot Survives

PY1602172188 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] The Aeronautics Ministry is investigating the case of a FAB [Brazilian Air Force] F5 plane that crashed yesterday in the Paraiba Valley near the border between Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

The plane was being flown by Aviation Captain (Valdeiso Ferreira Campos) who ejected from the plane and survived.

The F5 was still burning early this morning. The plane crashed around 1530 yeaterday after the pilot tried to make an emergency landing. On impact, the plane exploded and split in two. The front section gouged a nearly 4-meter deep hole while the back section ended up 20 meters away.

The city police said that although the plane was carrying bombs and there was a risk that they could explode, curious people could not be convinced to leave.

The plane was on a routine flight 30 minutes from Santa Cruz Air Force Base, in Rio de Janeiro.

Meteorological Satellite Launching Postponed

PY2002221589 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Feb 89 p 7

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—The launching of the first Brazilian meteorological satellite, which was scheduled for December 1989, has been postponed until the end of 1991 or the beginning of 1992, when the satellite launching vehicle (VSL), which is being developed at the aerospace technical center, will be ready. The decision, which was made by the Brazilian Commission of Space Activities (COBAE), was communicated to the managerial group of the special program during a secret Armed Forces staff meeting.

The managerial group has 30 days to design a new timetable and submit it to COBAE and to the president. The group will meet in Sao Jose dos Campos this week, on the 10th anniversary of the special program, and will contact the scientists who are building the satellite at the National Institute of Space Research (INPE) and at the aerospace technical center.

INPE director Marcio Barbosa explained that all satellite tests will be redesigned, and that the development and production of satellite components will be assigned.

"We are not merely postponing the program. We will continue with the work on the technological packages and on the projects that were abandoned by the previous administration. We will thus resume the work on the technological developments that was abandoned despite the fact that we were very near success," he said.

Barbosa added that President Jose Sarney has agreed to a COBAE recommendation to refuse to authorize the purchase of a foreign rocket to launch the Brazilian satellite.

Chile

Pinochet Addresses Rallies in Angol, Caracautin

Will Be 'With' Army

PY1802135689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Relay from Angol by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet has announced here that the scope of the bill on electoral districts, which is being considered by the government junta, will be expanded to increase the number of deputies representing each region in congress. During a mass rally in Victoria, the president mentioned this and other topics of concern to teachers, to whom he paid tribute, and to other sectors. [passage omitted]

The president added: I will be with the army in case we fail. He was alluding to the outcome of the elections scheduled for December 1989. In his speech to the people of Angol, Pinochet said:

[Begin Pinochet recording] One cannot abandon everything to the hands of subordinates and let them do what they want to do, right? I'll be with the Army in case we fail. I will be there, ready to fight, like [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The president called upon progovernment sectors and government supporters to avoid letting their guard down, and he stressed that each day of this year will be increasingly decisive.

Asks for Unity

PY2002135389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Report from Caracautin by reporter Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic has urged progovernment supporters to keep in mind that we are in a struggle against the opposition. He reiterated his appeal for the unity needed to win the 1989 December elections. The chief of state and his wife visited Lonquimay, where he was declared illustrious son of the city. He stressed the importance, now more than ever, of unity among Chileans. Afterward he visited Caracautin, where he dedicated a 15-km road to Manzanar. He also attended mass and went to the local square, where he gave a speech reiterating the importance of the current political moment.

[Begin Pinochet recording, in progress] ...in the year of elections, as I have preached, just as Saint Paul preached for [word indistinct]. I have been speaking of the need to remain united. We cannot leave the field to the other team. We must keep united in a single bloc. And if [words indistinct] I will give you some examples. Do not hurry up. We must remain united. We must not fight

among ourselves. If your friend is mad at you or did something to you, forget it. Everyone must [words indistinct] here so that when the moment comes [passage indistinct] by 92 or 98 percent [?of the votes]. [applause]

Do not forget we are struggling against the opposition. I could have stopped many things, but I did not want to, for obvious reasons. I may be a tyrant, but I do not want to be so tyrannical. I could have stopped many things. I could have ended with a few [words indistinct] who are around, those [word indistinct] communists. But I do not want to do it now—perhaps later on. [laughter] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Colombia

Government, Guerrillas Hold Meeting for Peace

PA1802200489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Report by Dora Maria Mendoza]

[Text] The government has reiterated during the national meeting for peace held in Ibague, Tolima Department, that peace will only be discussed with those who want it. The FARC and the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], however, asked for peace talks and said the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board must be the only valid guerrilla spokesman in a dialogue.

In this national meeting for peace, the rebel groups released a communique in which they stated their interest in participating in this peace process. In addition, the Senate president said regional talks should be promoted and a series of forums on constitutional reforms should be held.

[Begin recording of Rafael Pardo Rueda, presidential adviser for peace and rehabilitation] The guerrilla groups have been asked to show their willingness to achieve reconciliation. They should understand that the dialogue aims to allow them to return to civilian life. Naturally, the dialogue also will allow us to learn about the political proposals of the rebel groups. [end recording]

[Begin recording of Bernardo Jaramillo, Patriotic Union National Coordinating Board president] The first step is a bilateral cease-fire. It is the only thing that could create a proper atmosphere for a direct dialogue between the guerrilla movement and the government. We believe both sides should give in a little and present specific economic, political, and social proposals. Both sides involved in the conflict must do so. [end recording]

Church Agrees To Join Dialogue With Guerrillas

PA1702231789 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Feb 89 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] The church has expressed its willingness to participate in the dialogue. Cardinal Mario Revollo Bravo and Msgr Dario Castrillon, president of the Latin American Episcopal Conference, yesterday accepted an invitation to participate following a second meeting between the government and the M-19 during which an appeal was made "to the nation."

The two prelates said that the fact that a dialogue has begun with one of the guerrilla groups is positive, although they said that this is not enough.

Government Minister Cesar Gaviria, in a letter to former president Misael Pastrana and to the PSC's [Social Conservative Party] national directorate, gave an official report on the results of the meeting between the government and the M-19 and announced that the first meeting with political leaders will be held this week to work out the details of the dialogue.

The PSC directorate will meet with the head of the party today to respond to the message. [passage omitted]

Asked about the church's possible spokesman at the talks, the cardinal said that the churchmen would go "wherever we are asked or told to with pleasure."

According to Msgr Castrillon, the dialogue should be expanded to include the Armed Forces. Asked if he thought paramilitary groups should be included, he replied: "That issue deserves to be studied" because, he said, when there are established military forces and criminal acts are being committed, and when the state is incapable in certain instances of guaranteeing citizens' lives and property, it is worthwhile to study all options to end the crisis. [passage omitted]

Air Force Attacks Guerrilla Column in Bolivar

PA1702205189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2009 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Bogota, 17 Feb (DPA)—In the past few hours, Colombian Air Force planes have gone into action in a vast region of southern Bolivar Department and have eliminated a guerrilla column of the self-styled Army of National Liberation, ELN.

According to the mayor of the town of Achi in Bolivar Department the Air Force has killed at least 35 ELN guerrillas in confrontations on the Cauca River in the past 2 days. It is believed that the total number killed is 40, counting military, civilian, and subversive casualties.

In 120 hours, the guerrillas killed 10 peasants and 5 soldiers who were traveling on the Cauca River in tugboats.

Achi Mayor Ricardo Castellar said today that the guerrillas attacked "La Leonora," in the area of Astilleros, after allowing the boat "Porce," which was carrying fuel to the Mineros de Antioquia Company, to pass. "La Leonora" was carrying food and passengers and was guarded by military units of the Vergara and Velasco Battalions.

"If the guerrillas had attacked the 'Porce' with their heavy weapons, there would have been many more casualties," the mayor said.

According to the Defense Ministry in Bogota, the police and the Army are in complete control of the situation, and there are no indications of survivors among the members of the ELN guerrilla column.

In the past few months, there have been attacks on privately owned vessels on the Cauca River. On 17 October 1988, four barges were hijacked. Last Saturday, defenseless peasants on the launch "La Soberana" were attacked. Five were killed and 11 wounded.

Army Clashes With Guerrillas; New FARC Front

PA1702225189 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Feb 89 pp 1-A, 9-A

[Text] Five policemen were killed and seven are missing following a subversive attack against the police station in Valencia, Cauca Department.

Meanwhile, three alleged subversives were killed in an area between Cordoba and Antioquia when the Army rescued a cattle rancher who had been kidnapped. In Huila, two FARC guerrillas deserted.

Carlos Dupont, finance secretary and acting governor of Cauca Department, pointed out that the subversives entered Valencia at approximately 0100 and clashed with policemen of the local provisional station until 0600.

The provisional police station facilities were completely destroyed and the corregimiento was left with no communications.

A helicopter sent from Cali was the target of rifle fire, but it was able to land in Valencia and evacuate five bodies and a wounded policeman, who is now recovering in a hospital.

In the northern area of El Cesar Department, a new guerrilla front of the FARC, called Cacique Upar, has begun operations.

A cassette and a press communique from the subversive organization was sent to Radio Guatapuri of Valledupar announcing the creation of the front in the Perija mountain range in the Media Luna area.

Official Army sources reported that this is the area where numerous clashes have taken place recently and where the guerrillas have sustained many casualties.

The press communique reported that the self-styled Front 42 or Cacique Upar is led by Solis Almeida, Pedro Jimenez, and Mario Beltran, as first, second, and third commanders, respectively.

The Army killed three guerrillas who were operating in the Canalet area, southwest of Cordoba, and who had kidnapped a cattle rancher.

The soldiers were attacked by the subversive group, but they were able to kill three guerrillas and rescue the cattle rancher from Monteria.

In the Huila area, two FARC guerrillas deserted and turned themselves in to a military garrison.

"We are turning ourselves in because we are disappointed with the promises that were made to us when we were recruited. We want to return to civilian life, to our families, and live in peace," the guerrillas told newsmen at the 9th Brigade garrison.

EPL Front Declares 'All-Out War' on FARC

PA1902134689 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Feb 89 p 8-C

[Text] Monteria—According to an "urgent" communique sent to EL TIEMPO's newspaper offices in Monteria, the Jesus Maria Alzate Front of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] has declared an all-out war against FARC.

The EPL communique totally rejects FARC's antirevolutionary and fascist practices.

The communique adds that they will not allow themselves to be intimidated by the dirty war unleashed against their members and collaborators, and that the EPL is ready to retaliate in the same way FARC murdered Javier [name as published], Francisco Padilla, and Jorge Avilez.

The communique adds that they cannot understand why FARC went to Villa Alegre farm, Nueva Lucia, and without warning and with the antirevolutionary, murderous cruelty that characterizes them, vilely massacred and burned down the homes and belongings of comrades Gonzalo Velez, Manuel Pereira, Bienvenido Ramirez, Silvio Cantero, Luis Gonzalez, and Gilberto Posada—true revolutionaries and pure members of the Marxist-Leninist party.

The communique ends: "From this moment on, we declare an all-out war on FARC; these friends of the dirty war, the scum, and paramilitary forces better understand and learn that the EPL is with the people and our struggle seeks to fulfill the claims to which the people have a right."

Patriotic Union Condemns Guerrilla Violence

PA2102020889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0002 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] The Patriot Union [UP] has strongly criticized Colombian guerrillas and has called for an end to kidnappings and attacks. In view of this clear step toward peace, the only question that remains to be asked is why didn't the UP do this before?

UP President Bernardo Jaramillo has stated that the Colombian people do not trust the guerrillas like they did before. In a 180-degree turnaround, this political organization that emerged from the FARC has decided to take a centrist position and criticize both the government and the guerrillas.

Since 1985, UP had refused to condemn rebel activities, and on the anniversary of the death of [late UP leader] Jaime Pardo Leal, Jaramillo went so far as to say that in Colombia all kinds of struggle, including the heroic struggle of the guerrillas, are valid.

[Begin Jaramillo recording] The guerrillas must demonstrate that they want peace, but not only with letters and documents. They must put an end to terrorist attacks on oil pipelines, electric towers, and production centers. They must put an end to kidnappings and extortion. They must stop involving civilians in the war they are waging against the Army. [end recording]

He also said the people no longer believe in the guerrilla movement as they did 4 years ago because of the terrorist and criminal actions that the guerrillas are carrying out.

[Begin Jaramillo recording] The guerrillas mistakenly, as I see it, believe they are being massively backed by the Colombian people and that they are going to win the war. The credibility of the guerrilla movement, however, has been weakened considerably. [end recording]

Jaramillo not only questioned the guerrillas' methods, but also pointed to the guerrillas' incoherent position on peace as well as the lack of cohesion among the various armed groups.

Apart from this new position, the UP's meeting at Ibague was inconclusive, and one gets the impression that it was politically manipulated, so much so that a letter on the humanization of the war written by former president Lopez Michelsen was not read because the meeting organizers did not permit it.

Paraguay

Stroessner's Wife, Daughter Arrive in Miami

PY1702170589 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] The wife and daughter of former Paraguayan President General Alfredo Stroessner arrived in Miami early this morning. They intend to live in Florida.

The news was disseminated today by AFP citing diplomatic sources in Asuncion. The Miami HERALD today published an article reporting on the possible arrival of Gen Stroessner's family in the city.

The U.S. Department of State did not confirm the news.

According to AFP, in a few days Alfredo Stroessner, son of deposed President Alfredo Stroessner, and the daughter of Provisional President General Andres Rodriguez [the wife of Alfredo Stroessner, Jr] will also move to Miami.

Venezuela Recognizes Rodriguez Government

PY1702184789 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 17 Feb 89 p 10

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana met with Venezuelan Ambassador Jesus Elias Morrel.

During the meeting Ambassador Morrel delivered a note through which the Venezuela Government recognizes the Paraguayan Government. The officials discussed the present situation and also the prospects of strengthening Venezuelan-Paraguayan ties. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Cited on Elections, Constitution

PY2002181889 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Feb 89 p 9

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] According to Euclides Acevedo, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF), President Andres Rodriguez has completely agreed to hold a national constitutional convention within 2 years and to eliminate the article on reelection.

Acevedo reported this yesterday during a meeting of PRF grass roots leaders, which will conclude today. The PRF leaders will discuss the political situation since the 3 February coup.

Acevedo briefed the meeting on the "measures and political behavior of the PRF since 3 February:

"My talk with General Rodriguez basically consisted of the following: First, besides communicating among themselves, they intend to establish contact with as few people as possible. [sentence as published] Besides congratulating me on 17 February, Gen Rodriguez basically called me to ask for the opposition's cooperation in a process that he wants to conclude in 1993."

"Gen Rodriguez told me that he intends to institutionalize the country, to bring about free and democratic elections in 1993, and to hand down power to whoever wins the elections."

"When I spoke of the need to postpone the elections, Rodriguez told me: 'Look, I am not a politician; I am just a soldier. If I postpone the elections now, I will set a bad constitutional precedent. Besides, I think that these elections will not yet be totally free. They will be a kind of training."

"I spoke of the need to comply with demands of the National Accord, especially those of the PRF, and when I spoke of civil liberties, Rodriguez told me: 'That is irreversible. There will be total freedom; I can assure you of that."

"When I spoke about reforming the electoral law, he told me: 'Look, that is something that must be resolved by you politicians, but my idea is that all the political parties should present their own project for reforming that law to the Central Electoral Board.'"

"I asked him how could we do it, because we cannot approach the president of the Central Electoral Board and tell him here we come to propose.... Rodriguez interrupted me and said: 'I am thinking of summoning a meeting through the Colorado Party Executive Board and the Interior Ministry with two or three representatives of each political party to prepare a proposal for the electoral board.'"

"Regarding proportional representation, he told me he totally agreed with such a proposal. 'You must ask for that,' he told me."

"I told him there was another important issue: the voting lists. He told me: 'I do not think there is enough time to make new voting lists, but I think the people could vote with their identity documents.'"

"I insisted on the importance of our demands. For example, I asked him about the possibility of summoning a national constitutional convention in a year or two to modify the Constitution."

"Rodriguez told me: You have taken the words from my mouth. I believe the Constitution must be modified, and I ask the PRF to abolish the article on reelection. Let us do it like in Venezuela: One president comes after the other. Otherwise we will continue with this business: our leader, our only leader.'"

"That is exactly what he told me," Acevedo said.

"I told him I was surprised at his statements, because a lot of people suspect that there will be a perpetuation of the regime here. 'No,' he told me, 'we did not kill so many people or make such a difficult decision just to continue behaving as in the past.'"

The PRF president stressed that Gen Rodriguez asked him "not to go so fast." Acevedo added that most of the talk was carried out in the Guarani language, behind closed doors, without the presence of aides de camp or officials.

MOPOCO Officially Leaves Opposition Coalition

PY1802162889 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
18 Feb 89 p 11

[Excerpt] The Colorado Popular Movement—MOPOCO—has officially announced its withdrawal from the National Accord, an opposition coalition that also includes members of the Liberal, Febrerista, and Christian Democratic Parties. In a communique, the MOPOCO said that "we leave the National Accord" as of today.

The communique, which is signed by MOPOCO President Miguel Angel Casabianca and Secretary Sandino Gil Oporto, justifies the decision by saying that "we had believed that our presence in both the National Accord and the Colorado Party, which is in the process of restoring its internal institutions and its internal democracy, could possibly lead to fluent dialogue based on essential political principles. These principles make up both the five points of the military proclamation and the political platform of the National Accord, which are essentially identical."

"Such dialogue was not possible, through no fault of ours," the MOPOCO said, adding that "we acknowledge the artificial situation that has been created in the National Accord. We are men of struggle and we are not afraid of responsibilities."

"We are leaving the National Accord. As of today, the MOPOCO no longer belongs to the National Accord."

"This decision by the MOPOCO executive board will be submitted to a special convention of our movement."

The MOPOCO has thus left the National Accord after 10 years of membership.

"The Colorado people and the entire citizenry are aware that we have always kept our word and that we will continue our unwavering struggle for freedom, democracy, and social justice. With a clear conscience we await the judgement of history on our actions," the MOPOCO said. [passage omitted]

PDC President Comments on Talks With Rodriguez

PY1802171889 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
18 Feb 89 p 8

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] President General Andres Rodriguez has received Christian Democratic Party (PDC) President Jorge Dario Cristaldo. Journalists were not present during the meeting, but Cristaldo talked to the press outside Government Palace afterwards.

Cristaldo remarked that "the meeting had been very useful. The president reiterated that the goals he stated when he assumed the Presidency will be fulfilled; that he expects the people as a whole, and all political parties, to cooperate with him; and that he will be open to suggestions."

Cristaldo said: "We told the president that we shared his goals, that we hoped the government will fulfill its promises, and that the PDC will participate in the upcoming election."

Cristaldo added: "We presented him with a memorandum of our intentions and proposals. The president promised to read and study it, and to implement whatever was possible." Asked about the content of the proposals, Cristaldo said: "We asked that the principle of proportional representation determine the makeup of elective bodies; that measures be taken to prevent a person from voting more than once; and that all parties be represented at the ballot boxes and at the Central Electoral Board."

Cristaldo said that "the president considered these items to be very important and promised to implement them in the 1 May election."

The PDC president also requested that "the National Radio of Paraguay be made available to the opposition; that ANTELCO [National Administration of Telecommunications] give free telephone service to political parties; that national political leaders be granted free travel in government-owned means of transportation, and that the government take whatever other measures might be necessary to guarantee equal opportunity to all political parties with special privileges for none."

Regarding the National Accord request to postpone the election, Cristaldo said: "We talked about it, and the president explained why this was not possible. We consider the issue closed. There is no reason to discuss it any further. Regarding ways to ensure a more or less clean election, the president said it was impossible to update the electoral registration list for a totally clean election in six months, but promised that if he won on 1 May, the 1993 election will be clean and all parties will participate. "The president wants the best people from each party, without discrimination, to serve in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. He wants Congress to abolish all laws that restrict public liberties and to pass new laws favoring democracy," Cristaldo said.

Regarding the registration of the PDC, Cristaldo said: "Our registration was practically confirmed because the president said he wants all parties to participate and that the requirement of 10,000 members should not apply to this election."

Febrerista Leader, Rodriguez Discuss Elections

PY1802184289 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Feb 89 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] Euclides Acevedo, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF], yesterday held a cordial meeting with the president, General Andres Rodriguez, and afterward talked, with his usual ease, to journalists accredited to Government House.

Asked whether the PRF will participate in the coming elections, Acevedo answered: "Well, this decision will have to be made by the convention. I will inform the national executive committee that it is possible that our demands will be satisfied, and I believe that if they are, the party could participate in the elections. I wish to reiterate, however, that any decision on this matter will be up to the party convention taking place on 18 and 19 March."

Acevedo added: "Obviously, I conveyed to the president the concerns of all the Paraguayan opposition, which wants an extension of the election deadline so as to have more time to register people. The president told me that he wanted to comply strictly with constitutional provisions and that he did not want to leave himself open to criticism. We respect his position; we do not share it 100 percent, but we do respect it. He does agree, however, that the electoral law must be amended; he is open to dialogue and is prepared to listen to all political parties. I will convey all this to my fellow party members, and we will reach a decision at our convention."

Asked whether he went to see the president on behalf of the PRF or the National Accord, Acevedo answered: "I came here on behalf of the PRF, but always bearing in mind that our party belongs to the accord. Furthermore, as you all know, on 16 February the National Accord ratified its demands, confirmed its will to work in concert, and even decided to request meetings with the Catholic Church, the Colorado Party, and the president of the nation. The National Accord insists that dialogue is the basic, essential means for building a new order. These principles are shared by the PRF. We want unity in the quest for a new order." [passage omitted]

Acevedo said that President Rodriguez "wants the cooperation of all Paraguayans in this process, from which no one can be excluded. It is a process that is a challenge to all of us. I believe that we must not reject his offer, because the building of a new nation—not just the 1 May elections—is at stake here." [passage omitted]

The PRF leader concluded by saying that "General Rodriguez agrees that the electoral law must be amended, and he promised that if perfection is not achieved, he will continue negotiating and working. He wants truly free and democratic elections with everyone's participation in 1993. He said that this was his commitment to God and the fatherland. I am merely trying to quote him."

Laino: No Participation in Elections Possible

PY2002234389 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 Feb 89 p 9

[Text] Domingo Laino, chairman of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], has stated that "under the current circumstances it is impossible to participate in the elections." Laino held a meeting yesterday with all grassroots leaders during which they reconfirmed their support for the party's demands on the elections. These demands were submitted to the government within the framework of the National Accord.

Some 200 leaders of various committees participated in the meeting. They decided to suggest to the party board that it call a special general meeting to discuss whether the PLRA will participate in the elections. However, they stressed that participation must be conditioned to some requirements, such as electoral reform, new registration of voters, apportionment of congressional seats, etc.

Laino stated: "The grassroots leaders reported that they have not carried out any registration work because we have always abstained from voting. Our main concern, then, is to reorganize the registration books."

[Question] Dr Laino, do you personally reaffirm this position?

[Answer] Under the current circumstances it is impossible to participate in the elections; first, because even if we wanted to participate, we cannot. To participate in an election one must be in a position to elect or be elected, and under these circumstances we cannot elect or be elected. Under these circumstances we are separated from the electoral process. But we are open for dialogue. We believe that certain standards of equity and justice must prevail in these elections, so that these elections will be different and better than those in past years, which were fraudulent.

[Question] It seems that, more than the postponement issue, the problem is centered on those conditions (new electoral registration, etc.) to facilitate participation. What would happen if these conditions, but not the postponement, were reviewed by the government?

[Answer] There is an essential principle: The postponement is demanded, of course, based on the demand for reform of the antidemocratic points of the electoral law, and on the reorganization of the registration books. Postponement for the sake of postponement makes no sense.

Former Justice Minister Jacquet Returns

PY2002183989 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish 1821 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Former Justice Minister Jose Eugenio Jacquet has returned to Paraguay. He arrived at Asuncion International Airport at 1400 aboard Varig Airlines flight 902 from Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. This information has just been confirmed by airline employees, who said Jacquet is on the list of passengers.

Held at Police Station

PY2002203989 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish 1925 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] We continue to report on the return of former Justice Minister Jose Eugenio Jacquet.

You probably recall that Mr Jacquet headed the delegation to the inauguration of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

The 2-3 February coup was staged during his stay in Venezuela, and he had remained outside the country until today. There were rumors that he had traveled to Miami. Then we received reports that he was in Brazil. This afternoon he returned to Asuncion.

According to reliable sources, Mr Jacquet was taken to the Central Police Station, where he can be visited. Jacquet must respond to a lawsuit filed before the court by Attorney Pedro A. Rolon, who this morning reiterated his claim against Jacquet and submitted a thick dossier to support his arguments for the opening of an investigation.

Mr Jacquet was brought directly from the airport to the Central Police Station, where he remains in custody and where he can receive visitors, in accordance with an 18 February police resolution establishing a visitors schedule for those held in that police station.

Peru

MRTA Chief Admits Ties With M-19, Others

PY2002161289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2339 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 18 Feb (EFE)—The MRTA military chief Victor Polay Campos has admitted that his group had links with the Colombian guerrilla group M-19 and with the Ecuadoran subversive group "Alfaro Lives, Damnit!"

Polay also said that the MRTA members took part in the takeover of the Justice Palace in Bogota, and he added that they are members of the so-called "American Battalion".

The Lima newspaper LA REPUBLICA published this information today.

According to LA REPUBLICA, Polay reported this information to the Peruvian National Police when he was interrogated.

Polay and an accomplice, Rosa Luz Padilla, were arrested on 3 February in Huancayo, 415 km southeast of Lima. They were taken to Lima, where Polay was interrogated by DIRCOTE [Antiterrorist Directorate].

After being questioned, Polay and Padilla were taken to the Canto Grande high-security prison in Lima.

LA REPUBLICA says that Polay denied the charge that the MRTA is a terrorist organization. He said that the organization is motivated by the need for a change in Peruvian political and social systems.

Polay also rejected (?any similarity) between the MRTA and the Maoist Shining Path terrorist group because, he said, "we are not terrorists; we promote the revolution of the masses."

Polay denied any MRTA involvement in kidnappings and murders and added that he does not know all the MRTA groups in Peru, because he is only the military chief of the "northeastern front of the country."

Polay admitted that he was member of the APRA, which is the Peruvian ruling party, and that he has been a member of the MRTA since it was founded in 1982.

Polay and Padilla will face trial next week.

Civil Guardsman Murdered; 1,000 Detained

PY1702203989 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Report from Piura by German Vazquez]

[Excerpts] The first terrorist attack in this city this year has claimed the life of a Civil Guard noncommissioned officer assigned to the Castilla precinct in the Piura metropolitan area.

The victim was 40-year-old Rufino Licarnaque Alvarez, a native of Piura, who was intercepted by three unidentified men. The attackers were in a cream-colored car with a license plate ending in the numbers 4667.

The cowardly attack occurred downtown at 0805, at Colonel Francisco Bolognessi Square, only 150 meters from the 1st Military Region headquarters. According to early reports, Licarnaque was at a bus stop waiting for a bus to the police precinct, where he was an administrative worker at the documentation center. He had served in the Civil Guard for 20 years and was regarded as an efficient officer.

The attackers approached him supposedly to ask some questions, but suddenly they shot him in the head and planted a Russian cheese on him; that is, a homemade bomb made of dynamite and thumbtacks inside a plastic edible oil bottle, topped with a fuse. The bomb tore Licarnaque to pieces. [passage omitted]

Nearly 1,000 suspects were detained and are being held in police precincts, Prefect Jose Aguilar Santisteban said.

Police Clash With Terrorists in Ancash

PY2002115889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0234 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 19 Feb (EFE)—It was reported today in Lima that eight terrorists and three policemen were killed in an attack by presumed Shining Path members against a police post in a town in Ancash Department.

The attack was carried out on 17 February in Quiches, 100 km from Huaraz, the capital of the Ancash Department (409 km north of Lima).

The daily EXPRESSO indicated that the subversives, before attacking the police post, made death threats to peasants and businessmen to extort money from them.

The daily reported that the subversives entered Quiches after another terrorist group blew up three high tension pylons of the Huallaga dam, leaving about half a dozen towns of Callejon Huaylas without electricity.

According to police sources, the districts of Shimpi and Tarica were also attacked by the terrorists.

According to a report released by a special Senate committee, 200 people were killed in terrorist violence last January.

Official figures indicate that since the Shining Path began its activities in 1980 [words indistinct] including civilian, police, military, government officials, and subversives, were killed in Peru.

Shining Path Urges 'Armed Strike' in Ayacucho

PY2002152089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0246 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 19 Feb (EFE)—It was reported here today that the Shining Path terrorist group has called on the Peruvian city of Ayacucho to stage "an armed strike" from 20 February until 26 February.

Some residents from Ayacucho have said that the call for a strike, a measure this terrorist group has adopted on other occasions to stop activity in Ayacucho, was made known last Saturday through slogans on several streets and squares of Ayacucho.

The slogans criticizing the Peruvian Government were found after the blackout caused by the bombing of two electricity pylons outside Ayacucho, 525 km southeast of Lima.

The Ayacucho residents noted that shortly after the Shining Path guerrillas announced the "armed strike," unidentified members of the "death squad" of the rightist "Rodrigo Franco Command" group issued communiques asking the people not to observe the strike and "to work calmly" because "we will protect you."